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ARBATOV INTERVIEWED ON U.S. ARMS TALKS POLICY

AU190925 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 16 Feb 85 p 5

[Interview given by Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, to Janos Elek, "foreign policy columnist," and Istvan Zalai, "Moscow correspondent": "The Prevention of Catastrophe Is a Common Interest" -- date and place not given; first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] New Soviet-U.S. talks will start on 12 March on the comprehensive range of issues of space and nuclear -- strategic and intermediate range -- weapons. The new Geneva opening is anticipated with hope and expectation all over the world. The fate of these negotiations can have a determining influence on the development of world politics, as the issues on the agenda are decisive for mankind -- will they succeed in halting the arms race? Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, spoke about these talks and their background.

[Zalai, Elek] What mutual Soviet-U.S. interests make possible the Geneva talks starting on 12 March? Is there such a general interest?

[Arbatov] The mutual interest that makes the negotiations possible and necessary is primarily the interest in survival. The arms race not only threatens to entail large expenses and increased suspicion, it is also one of the main direct sources of the danger of war for several reasons. This is so, for instance, because the political atmosphere naturally deteriorates when the development of new weapons is under way and other countries respond to the challenge in a similar way; another reason is that the new weapons systems appearing now limit to the extreme minimum the time available for the most responsible decisions in the history of mankind. The Pershing II missiles deployed in Western Europe, for instance, can reach certain command centers in the Soviet Union in a matter of 6 to 8 minutes. It is possible to imagine what can be done in this or even a shorter period of time. The current arms race unavoidably leads to new dangers; nor are we living in a too secure world today, although there are only five nuclear powers at present. We can imagine what it would be like if there were 15 or 20 nuclear powers.

Do They Understand the Common Interests on the Other Side of the Ocean Too?

In addition, nowadays everyone is beginning to realize that the current arms race and the way the U.S. is financing it puts the other countries in a very difficult situation, and this is precisely one of the reasons for the increased indebtedness and difficult financial situation of the developing countries. We could talks at great length about this mechanism but, to be brief, the large U.S. military expenses are causing a great deficit. In order to fight this deficit, the current U.S. Administration, afraid of inflation, does not wish to use the banknote presses even more, and instead it makes the money market more expensive by increasing the interest rate. This, of course, artificially increases the dollar's exchange rate. The result of this is that the developing countries receive cheap dollar credits but must pay back expensive dollars, and they receive every additional credit at an increasingly high interest rate. This has led to an impossible situation in the financial world, has had a catastrophic effect on the developing countries, has made things bad for the other countries, and makes the Americans themselves face great problems.

Summing it up: There are mutual interests which can contribute to the reaching of an agreement. But, the big question is whether they understand this on the other side, and a decisive problem is whether they understand the mutual interests correctly. Here begin the difficulties with U.S. policy.

[Zalai, Elek] These mutual interests were present earlier, too, but they did not lead to agreement. How is the current situation different from the previous one? Is a new element discernible in the U.S. position?

[Arbatov] Is there anything new in the U.S. Administration's position? This continues to be a big question that we are still unable to answer. But let us nevertheless take the past year as an example. The administration continuously stressed that it had not changed its policy. But we of course are well aware -- our memory is not so short -- that, at least in words, Washington has given up its earlier position.

There Is a Need To Make Use of the Opportunity Arising

When Reagan came to power, his openly declared aim in his first years was to attain military superiority over the Soviet Union. This aim was confirmed by the Republican Party's 1980 platform, and was declared in an entire series of speeches. Now the U.S. side refrains from this. They no longer use, for instance, the expression 'limited nuclear war.' At that time they declared that they would not negotiate with us, or if they did, they would do it only from a position of strength -- that is, when they had already reached it they would be ready to talk with us. At present, however, they keep proving that they are willing to negotiate, that they want to eliminate nuclear weapons, and more than that, they even agreed to lay this down in a document. I do not say that this is proof of a real change in their position, but the declarations at least have changed. In any case, it seems that an opportunity has emerged which we must make use of. This is how I evaluate the change in the situation and that is why our position to agree on negotiations emerged.

[Zalai, Elek] What are the interests that can endanger the success of the negotiations and can make them doubtful?

[Arbatov] I would say that now, in the last weeks following the Geneva agreement in January, very disturbing things have begun to occur which strengthen the belief that the U.S. side is again completely consciously creating a tense atmosphere. Using all possible means, it tries to upset confidence in the Soviet Union and to lay the foundations of the necessity for the continuation of the arms race.

This position raises the following question: Does the current U.S. Administration take the negotiations seriously, the negotiations on which an agreement has been reached, or does it need them only in order to show some degree of success in its foreign policy? Does the administration want merely to hide the arms race through negotiations in order to calm its allies and public opinion -- that is, does it wish to disguise the same old direction through the negotiations? Comrade Chernenko spoke in detail about this in his interview with CNN-TV.

We Have Many Questions for the Americans

There have been U.S. claims and views that the negotiations will be long and difficult, and that one cannot know how an agreement can be achieved. Another thing has been added to this lately. How can the fact be interpreted that, prior to the negotiations, the U.S. Administration, in its report to Congress accuses the Soviet Union of breaching previous agreements. It can be interpreted only as a sign that "it is impossible to negotiate with the Russians."

They try to persuade Congress and public opinion of this. Can anyone who really takes the negotiations seriously act this way? I do not even mention the baselessness of the declaration at the moment. If we read it more attentively, its form also proves to be the height of perfidy. What are they doing? They write that "it is imaginable," that "it is so, but it is possible that it is the other way," that "there are grounds to think...," that "it is not out of the question," and that "it is possible." And all this in spite of the fact that there is also a direct possibility of discussing it all. We, too, of course, have many questions for the U.S. side. That is precisely why we created the permanent consultative committee which deals with supervising the maintenance of previous agreements. If such questions arise, we can ask each other, and we can also get answers to these questions.

Another thing: Let us consider Weinberger's and Shultz' declarations at the congressional hearing, or some of Reagan's declarations. The impression is that the most important thing for the U.S. Administration is not to prepare the field for successful negotiations, but to "put Congress in its place," to persuade it not to reduce military expenditures or a single military program in the course of the budget debates. To persuade Congress, the administration's hypocrisy goes as far as to say: U.S. armament is necessary for the success of the negotiations. This is the old, bankrupt approach to the negotiations -- and this has already been revealed by serious U.S. analyses too -- when the U.S. side was in fact trying to utilize the negotiations for the same goal as the arms race: to upset the balance of power. They always used armament for increasing their own power, and they tried to use the negotiations for reducing Soviet forces. It is obvious that the Soviet Union is not ready for such an agreement. The Soviet Union agreed to the negotiations precisely because it believes that by safeguarding the existing balance, it is possible to seriously and radically reduce armaments. This position of ours continues to be in force.

Then we have the anti-Soviet outbursts, threats. How, for instance, should one interpret Reagan's words that if there is no agreement to his liking, he will recall the U.S. negotiating delegation from Geneva? Prior to negotiations, this kind of ultimatum is not used with any sovereign country. To talk to us as if to a country that has lost a war is not the way; we have lost neither a war nor battles.

[Zalai, Elek] Is this only propaganda prior to the negotiations or can something similar be expected at the talks too?

[Arbatov] I cannot give a conclusive answer to this question, but I think that all this can be interpreted only in one way: The U.S. Administration itself has not yet decided what it wants. These are only words. It is possible, of course, that the administration's members have already decided themselves what they want. In any case, we are witnessing obvious contradictions in their declarations. On the one hand they say that the most important thing is to eliminate all nuclear weapons. They have signed this. In Geneva George Shultz and Andrey Gromyko signed a statement that there is a need to reduce nuclear weapons and that the final aim is their complete elimination. The same thing applies to "star wars" too: They agreed that this would be the subject of the negotiations. On the other hand, however, completely contradictory declarations are made. A situation has emerged which will make the negotiations very difficult. In my personal opinion, on the basis of what has been going on in the past few weeks, it is completely obvious that it is presently more important for the U.S. Administration to get congressional approval for the military expenditures and the military programs than to assure the success of the negotiations, or at least their successful beginning.

"Star Wars" Defense -- Offensive Plan

[Zalai, Elek] In this connection, how do you evaluate the U.S. Administration's declarations urging the continuation of the "star wars" program?

[Arbatov] First of all, this is contradictory to the agreement reached. Second, it is of course difficult to interpret this as other than an attempt to foil the negotiations because, I believe, it is now already clear to the Americans that we will not agree to any reduction of offensive weapons if they do not give up this missile defense system. If they stick to the system, they render questionable the possibility of achieving an agreement. But, of course, other explanations are also possible here; it can also be, for instance, some sort of attempt to "run up the bidding", to force us to make concessions in exchange for some sort of relative limitation of U.S. plans.

[Zalai, Elek] Washington claims that without the space weapons plan, the Soviet Union would not have sat down to the negotiating table. What is the Soviet reply to this claim?

[Arbatov] This is simply not true. We were negotiating long before these plans. More than that, we had successful talks on SALT I; and there were hard but successful talks on the SALT II agreement. We were ready to negotiate conscientiously with the present administration too, but this failed, and not through our fault. We believe that we must not let slip a single opportunity, a single realistic possibility of returning to negotiations. The evaluation of the situation and of the U.S. Administration's position made last year and at the beginning of this year signaled to us that, in spite of all the difficulties, there are such possibilities.

Concerning the appearance of the space arms plans, they brought only one type of change in the Soviet position -- we included the matter of "star wars" in the negotiations. This is a very important issue that we could discuss a lot and that requires special analysis. There are a series of questions here. For instance: How realistic is the whole plan? Talking with experts, it is my impression that the conscious majority of them do not consider a really efficient missile defense system deployed in space to be realistic the coming decades, and even beyond. Many experts believe that there is only one understandable element in this whole matter: The star wars conception is part of the first-strike concept. That is, the MX missiles, the missiles of the Trident II submarines, are directed against the missiles of the other side, the Pershing II missiles are used against guidance centers, and the defense system is used to defend against the counterstrikes of the small number of remaining missiles. But it is the work of the experts to decide whether this is possible or not.

If the Negotiations Drag On for 7 or 8 Years, They Will Be Useless

I consider it entirely possible that certain high-ranking people in the United States, watching the "Star Wars" films, can really think that all this is real. They are so unfamiliar with these issues that it appears that they have been hibernating during these years and forgot about the long debates on missile defense systems, on their connection with offensive weapons -- debates going on at the end of the sixties and at the beginning of the seventies.

There is another element -- namely, to force upon us great expenditures, to undermine us economically. What can I say about this? Of course it is not pleasant to spend unnecessary amounts and I do not exclude our having to do this nevertheless.

But primarily it is my conviction that we have already learned to react to these matters rationally enough and not to step onto the road onto which the Americans try to push us. There are surely other roads that shatter the U.S. conceptions and which are much less expensive than they think they are. As to what these roads are, let the experts look after that. Second, although they are the richest in the capitalist world, the Americans themselves cannot spend unlimited amounts on arms, either. Precisely through extraordinary armament, they have incurred such expenses that have made the budget deficit and state debts the main problem, both for themselves and internationally. I would like to add only that it seems to me that the main line of political struggle in Congress, between Congress and the administration, in public opinion in the coming period, will be how to eliminate or reduce to an acceptable extent the deficit, the state debts.

[Zalai, Elek] There are U.S. experts who are talking about lengthy negotiations that can last 7 to 8 years. Does not the development of the military industry entail the threat that the current already complex disarmament issues can become insoluble in the meantime?

[Arbatov] I think that if these negotiations take 7 to 8 years to reach the first serious agreement, they are useless. During this time, military technology will indeed advance so much that completely different issues will be on the agenda. We must live through these 7 or 8 years without a catastrophe, and considering the current pace of armament, this will not be easy. Then there also arises the question of what if the negotiations go beyond the current, and even the next President's term? For me, however, it seems most essential that dragging out the negotiations is really in the in the interest of the most consistent supporters of the military-industrial complex in the U.S. Administration. They simply want to drag out the negotiations in order to arrive in a position in a few years, when -- concerning many issues -- it will simply be impossible to achieve an agreement. Weapons systems can emerge which will simply be impossible to control. Already now there are ocean-deployed cruise missiles which are practically impossible to control.

They Demanded Capitulation, Not Compromise

[Zalai, Elek] Prior to the new negotiations, as also in the past, accusations are heard in Washington that the Soviet Union is not ready for compromises. What is your reply to these accusations?

[Arbatov] Look, it all depends on what kind of compromise Washington has in mind. Until now they have striven for a "compromise," whereby we reduce our military strategic force's most important element, and they reduce nothing or only a very limited amount. This is unacceptable to us. What they demanded from us would not have been compromise but capitulation. Another U.S. effort is precisely discernible: They wanted to force us to destroy everything that is already operational and is part of the current military balance -- in exchange for the promise that they will give up a part of the future military programs that for the time being are only on the drawing board. We did not agree with this either, because we started from the premise that at present there is a relative balance and the important thing is not what plans we have and what is invented by one or another of our engineers. We claim that we must deal with the current issues, the current weapons, and we must halt their further development. Only in such a framework are we ready for compromises, and we have proved this. We have proved this at the negotiations on the intermediate range missiles at which we were searching very persistently for compromise.

What Washington Wants Has Still Not Been Decided

As a whole, we went rather far to reach absolutely acceptable, and even more advantageous compromises for the West, but also acceptable to us. We were searching for such compromises at other talks too, in contrast with Washington. The question is not simply that they do not want a compromise, but it seems that the main question has not yet been decided -- what does Washington want? Does Washington wish to continue the arms race and to achieve military superiority, or has it understood that an arms race can never be won and therefore it is necessary to come to an agreement concerning the reduction of armaments? I have the feeling that we have still not received the answer to this most important question.

[Zalai, Elek] Thank you for the discussion.

NEW U.S. SATELLITES, GENEVA TALKS VIEWED

LD181746 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 18 Feb 85

[From the "World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST reports that the Pentagon is developing a new generation of satellites, which will be located at high earth orbits, for reconnaissance, navigation, and other functions. The question of arming the satellites with weapons is being studied. These satellites also will be equipped with miniature jet engines to give them maneuverability. The main function of the satellites, the paper writes, will be to collect and transmit military information to ground services and also to control the operations of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Pentagon has decided to give its satellites the functions of space weapons, too. You will agree that such a report is a bad prelude to the coming Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva and I would like to say a few words about this.

As these talks approach -- as you know their opening is planned for 12 March -- in the United States literally every day a growing propaganda campaign is being conducted which aims to convince Americans beforehand not to expect too much of Geneva and that the talks on arms limitation definitely should be accompanied by a growth in U.S. military expenditure. To justify this position, fabrications have been circulated about alleged Soviet violations of commitments on previously adopted agreements. What underlies this slander is, of course, clear: An attempt is being made to convince Americans that one must be on one's guard with such an unreliable partner as the Soviet Union; one must always keep one's powder dry; and hence, naturally, the demands for increasing allocations for defense needs -- particularly, that same strategic antimissile defense which has become well-known as star wars. This categorization is now being disowned in Washington in an attempt to convince the Americans that it is a question of purely defensive projects pursuing almost humane aims -- missiles against missiles and not, allegedly, against people. At the same time, rumors are being circulated that it is a question of purely scientific research, just theoretical work, which is virtually the inevitable consequence and product of scientific progress.

But THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent in London, Getler, on this program recently quoted the opinion of "star wars" expressed by officials U.S. representatives visiting London during talks he had with them. Judging by their words, the journalist writes, a certain group inside the administration and U.S. military personages are stepping up pressure to examine the limited application of part of the technology devised under the "star wars" program in the nearer future without waiting for the final results of the long-term research in the field proposed by Reagan for antimissile defense.

These officials say, Getler writes further, that the technical progress in certain fields of this research is moving faster than was expected. This in particular concerns work on securing an antimissile defense system in certain existing launch silos of Minuteman ballistic missiles or future silos for MX missiles, and variants for defending command centers, submarine bases, and possible defense mines in Western Europe, he says. Note that this scientific "progress" in quotations, proceeds especially quickly for some reason where it is not the American population or U.S. cities which have to be defended, but command centers and missile launching pads. Well, as for ordinary Americans, their fate, judging by everything, does not particularly interest official Washington.

Another not unimportant detail reported by THE WASHINGTON POST, as one of the official representatives said in a private talk with Getler, support for the star wars program within the present administration has become a kind of pledge of loyalty; and this American official is worried by the fact that the appropriate debate has not been conducted on the question of how this star wars project may affect stability in relations between the two major powers. That's what THE WASHINGTON POST writes, and it is indeed time to think about this -- how this will affect Soviet-U.S. relations. It is time to remember that the Soviet Union advocates a comprehensive examination of all three general problems planned for debate at Geneva, and Washington's attempts to evade discussion on the subject of the nonmilitarization of space, to justify Washington's star wars plans, will do nothing to promote the success of the Geneva talks.

CHERNYSHEV CONDEMNS STAR WARS RESEARCH PLANS

LD151833 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow Feburary 15 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

The U.S. Administration, broadening the front of work on large-scale ABM defences with space-based components, claims that that "initiative" is being implemented as research and does not yet pose any practical threat of the deployment of a comprehensive ABM system. All this talk is downright misleading. Indeed, the atomic bomb once was a result of research under the Manhattan Project but since "the scientific fruit had been reaped," the world has been living under the formidable danger of nuclear weapons. Who can guarantee today that history will not repeat itself and that another danger will not be posed -- now from space? Who can vouchsafe -- with all responsibility due in this case -- that the United States will not go beyond research?

President Reagan only says that if it becomes possible to translate his "strategic defence initiative" into practice he will be ready to sit down to the negotiating table and make this problem international in a sense, that is, conduct talks before going ahead with deployment. These promises, naturally, can hardly reassure the world public. There is substantial reason for worry. For instance, THE WASHINGTON POST reports that certain officials in the U.S. Administration and in the Armed Forces demand that the possibilities of using certain types of "star wars" technology should be considered with a view to accomplishing limited tasks in the immediate future, without waiting for the ultimate results of the research program.

It is proposed to use some components of the ABM system to defend primarily ICBM bases, command centers, base ports of atomic-powered missile submarines and similar targets. These are very dangerous demands because if they are met, strategic stability will be dramatically upset, the treaty limiting the ABM systems violated, the arms race escalated and the threat of nuclear war enhanced.

Moreover, the United States already has a technological potential to meet those dangerous ambitions, as U.S. politicians and specialists say. Suffice it to recall the statement of Zbigniew Brzezinski, Robert Jastrow and Max Kampelman in their article in the NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE that the USA already has some of the technology for a large-scale ABM system and that a "two-layer" or "two-tier" system could be deployed already today.

So if claims are being made in the USA already now for the deployment of components of an ABM system, what are we to expect when research has been completed? There may very well appear adventurists who will say: Having spent dozens of billions of dollars on research, it is senseless not to use its results and we should go ahead with testing and deployment. As Andrey Gromyko said in his conversation with political news analysts, this is quite possible. We know the hand of the U.S. Administration and know the situation in the United States.

All this confirms anew the correctness of the Soviet Union's position. The line of conducting research into the development of a large-scale ABM system stands no criticism from the political or moral point of view. This line must be rejected. Positive results can only be achieved at the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. talks if the accord reached in Geneva is followed and respected in all its parts in practice.

U.S. SEEKS TO 'ENDLESSLY INCREASE' STRATEGIC ARMS

LD181415 Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS -- The TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The London FINANCIAL TIMES notes that while demonstrating its adherence to its programme of preparations for "star wars" the United States Administration is experiencing ever greater difficulties when explaining to Europeans the aims which it pursues when implementing Reagan's "strategic defence initiative".

Indeed, the Europeans do not view as persuasive the arguments used by Washington in support of the deployment by the United States of the large-scale anti-ballistic missile defence system with elements of space basing which actually is founded on Reagan's old thesis that the reduction of armaments by both sides would be preceded by an arms buildup by the United States. While declaring its aim of liberating mankind from the fear of offensive nuclear-missile arms the United States Administration at the same time is engaged in intensive preparations for the deployment of new MX and Midgetman super-accurate intercontinental ballistic missiles intended for delivering the first disarming strike at socialist countries and announces its intention to continue deploying in Western Europe its cruise missiles and Pershing-2's which need a flight time of 8-10 minutes to reach vitally important targets on the territory of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community.

Under Secretary of Defence of the United States Richard DeLauer stated when replying to Senator Sam Nunn that he could not imagine a level of America's anti-missile defence when the Pentagon would stop building up its offensive strategic missiles. In short, Washington's aim is to endlessly increase its strategic offensive arms while simultaneously creating a large-scale ABM system over the United States. A good illustration of the true intentions of the White House which proclaims that its aims supposedly are to make nuclear arms redundant and senseless.

Even in their propaganda polemic with opponents of "star wars" representatives of the United States Administration constantly let their tongues slip and admit that their "strategic defence initiative" provides for the protection of the United States from a Soviet return strike in the event of a possible first strike on the part of the United States (see, for instance, Max Kampelman's article in the January 27 issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE.)

It follows from the Pentagon's strategic concepts and from Washington's concrete military actions that Reagan's "new formula" is based on the old concept of preparations for a nuclear war at a considerable distance from America's shores and of ensuring the aggressor's relative safety from the reply strike of retribution. The American plan of "star wars" is most closely connected with the concept of a "limited" war in Europe.

An anti-missile shield for the aggressor and a "limited" nuclear war for Europeans -- this is the crux of the "strategic defence initiative" of the United States.

As the true intentions of the Reagan administration become clear to ever broader sections of the world public, the FINANCIAL TIMES writes, there is an increased confusion in the arguments used by the American side.

LOMEYKO REMARKS ON MBFR PROPOSAL SUMMED UP

PM181627 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists in connection with the new initiative made by the USSR and the other socialist countries at the Vienna talks on mutual reductions of armed forces and arms in central Europe was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center on 14 February.

Speaking at the briefing, V.B. Lomeyko, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Department, told the journalists that the socialist countries directly participating in the Vienna talks had submitted a draft "Basic Provisions for an Agreement on Initial Reductions of Ground Forces and Arms in Central Europe by the Soviet Union and the United States and the Subsequent Nonincrease of the Sides' Armed Forces and Arms in the Region" for the participants' examination. The Soviet Union proposes coming to an agreement in which the USSR and the United States would withdraw 20,000 and 13,000 men respectively within 1 year from the time the agreement comes into force. The reduced forces would leave the central European region by way of observation posts -- three or four on each side -- designated in advance. Other measures to ensure the fulfillment of the agreement are also envisaged. The proposal in question also takes into account the West's wishes. The socialist countries' proposal envisages continuing the talks on concluding a comprehensive agreement under which the total number of each side's armed forces personnel would be reduced to equal collective levels -- 900,000 men each, including 700,000 ground forces.

Replying to journalists' question, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed confidence that progress at the Vienna talks is necessary and possible. It is only necessary for the NATO countries to renounce their attempts to undermine the agreed principle of not damaging the security of either side and the desire to obtain unilateral military advantage.

It was stressed that the goal of the new initiative by the USSR and the other socialist countries is to put the Vienna talks on the road toward ensuring the swiftest achievement of specific, mutually acceptable accords that would promote reduction in the dangerous level of military confrontation in central Europe.

Outside the framework of the theme of the briefing a KUNA (Kuwait) correspondent asked a question about the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. consultations in Vienna on the Near East. The reply was that the USSR and the United States have agreed to hold an expert exchange of opinions on the questions of a Near East settlement. It was agreed that the meeting would be held in Vienna in mid-February. The subject of the forthcoming exchange of opinions must only be the Near East problem. In this connection the USSR's principled position of a comprehensive and just settlement in the region was reaffirmed.

GRINEVSKIY CITED ON PACT PROPOSED AT STOCKHOLM

PM181623 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Against the Nuclear Threat"]

[Text] Stockholm, 15 Feb -- The Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe has been addressed by special envoy O.A. Grinevskiy, leader of the Soviet delegation. He stressed that the Soviet proposal on the main provisions for a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force based on the socialist countries' joint intiatives have attracted great attention not only from the delegations at the Stockholm conference but also from broad sections of the international public who are deeply alarmed at the growth of tension in Europe. The interest in the Soviet proposal is generated first and foremost by the fact that it focuses the European public's attention on the most urgent task -- maintaining and strengthened peace.

In submitting the proposal for a treaty the Soviet Union does not intend to restrict itself to a single reaffirmation of the principle of the nonuse of force already contained in the UN Charter, which, to all appearances, is what the United States and certain NATO countries would like to reduce the whole matter to. There would be little point in such a reaffirmation. We propose, the Soviet representative stated, to develop and specify this principle -- taking account of the prevailing situation in Europe -- in the direction of greatest current importance: prohibiting the first use of any types of weapons, both nuclear and conventional. Goodwill is necessary on the part of all conference participants in order to achieve this goal.

The United States and its allies have not yet given a definite response to this Soviet proposal at Stockholm, restricting themselves to just general references to the fact that it is being studied in detail. Their answer will show whether the NATO countries are ready to join the other European countries in traveling the path of strengthening confidence and security on the European Continent.

U.S.-USSR 'EXCHANGE OF VIEWS' ON MIDEAST BEGINS

LD191117 Moscow TASS in English 1050 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Vienna February 19 TASS -- A Soviet-U.S. exchange of views on the problems of the Middle East began here today. The first meeting is being held in the USSR Embassy building in Vienna. The Soviet delegation is headed by Vladimir Polyakov and the U.S. one by Richard Murphy.

Respective Stances Reviewed

OW161445 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1145 GMT 15 Feb 85

[From the "World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Excerpts] About the situation in the Middle East, the Reagan administration has again recently intensified its Middle East policy. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has paid an official visit to Washington. Announcements about coming visits by Egyptian President Mubarak and Algerian President Bendjedid to the United States have been made. No changes at all have been noted in the U.S. approach to the settlement of the Middle East conflict. The United States continues to wager on Israel and the protection of its interests to the detriment of the national interests of neighboring Arab countries and primarily the Arab people of Palestine, who have been deprived of their motherland by the Zionists. And this was shown by U.S.-Saudi talks. Yet, despite this close economic and military-political cooperation between Washington and Riyadh, their positions concerning a Middle East settlement are actually divergent.

The Saudi leader expounded to President Reagan the Arab point of view that the decisions of the conference of Arab heads of states held in the Moroccan city of Fes in 1982 laid a just basis for holding talks on achieving universal peace in the Middle East. These decisions supported by the Soviet Union and many other countries envisage first a just settlement of the Palestine problem and then elimination of the consequences of Israeli aggression.

President Reagan, however, actually ignored the Arab positions outlined during meeting with Fahd and urged direct talks between Arab states and Israel under the circumstances of continued occupation of Arab lands. Statements by U.S. Administration officials indicate that Washington does not intend to make any changes in its Middle East policy. As in the past, it is wagering on the achievement of separate deals in the region.

You know that concrete proposals on convening an international conference on the Middle East were advance by our state. These proposals have found wide support throughout the Arab world. The White House, however, again rejected this idea, although this idea is being supported by the overwhelming majority of UN member-countries.

During the Saudi-U.S. talks, it became clear that the Reagan administration still refuses to recognize the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and refuses to recognize their inalienable rights to national independence and creation of their own state. PLO permanent observer at the United Nations Al-Tarzi has said that the United States is undermining UN efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East. The real reason for the Reagan administration's actions is clear, he said.

It tries to impose its military-political diktat over Arab countries, which are rich in oil and occupy an important strategic position. The situation is worsening in the Middle East. This is evident from the Israeli invaders' efforts to consolidate their positions on new borders in southern Lebanon, Tel Aviv's designs on colonizing occupied lands on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip, and U.S. and Israeli efforts to undermine the peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East crisis. The Arab world is carefully following the development of events.

Soviet-U.S. consultants on the Middle East at the level of experts will begin in Vienna in mid-February.

The Soviet position was again reflected in the Soviet-Greek communique published in the press today.

A Middle East settlement can be achieved only with the participation of all the interested parties, including the PLO, the only legitimate representative of Palestinian Arabs, on the basis of complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and the implementation of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and creation of an independent state, as well as recognition of the right of all states of the region to live in peace and security. The road to this kind of settlement has been shown clearly, and that is the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD171905 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 17 Feb 85

["International Observers Roundtable" program with political observers Aleksandr Yevgenyevich Bovin and Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, and All-Union Radio commentator Viktor Nikolayevich Levin]

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrades. This week's events have once again shown, clearly and vividly, that there are two main tendencies -- I would even say determining tendencies -- in the development of international relations. One is represented by the Soviet Union and by the other socialist countries and broad circles of the international public. This tendency is expressed by maximum effort to curb and end the arms race. The other tendency, which unfortunately has been made manifest this week just as clearly as in the past, is the line of the United States and its closest partners, a line leading toward military confrontation, toward the achievement of military superiority, and toward intensification of the military threat.

Replies to Chernenko Letters

Widespread international public concern and the alarm over the fate of peace have been shown very vividly in the letters sent to Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, by the leaders of the Argentine movement, Appeal of 100 in the Name of Life, and by those of the northern European antiwar organization, Treaty Now. These letters raise the most vital problems of international life and contain a call for active measures to be taken in order to prevent war.

Let me say a few words about these movements: The Appeal of 100 in the Name of Life came into being in Argentina in May 1984 upon the initiative of 100 eminent political, public, cultural, and religious figures who, in accordance with the program that has been adopted, are guided by humanitarian and peace-loving convictions which pursue the objective of helping to prevent nuclear disaster. It is very significant that one of the presidents of this movement is an adviser to the president of Argentina on issues concerning the struggle for peace and international security. The Treaty Now movement, which has received widespread development in the countries of northern Europe, brings together various antiwar groups which stand for the transformation of the north of Europe into a nuclear-free zone.

In his replies to these letters, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko again stressed that the Soviet Union sees its chief purpose as preventing nuclear disaster, and he talks about the concrete measures being taken in this direction: first and foremost, the Soviet Union's unilateral pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. In his reply to the leaders of the Argentine movement, Appeal of 100 in the Name of Life, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko stresses that we in the Soviet Union are deeply convinced that the historic debate between the different social systems, indeed as any other disputes and conflicts between states, can and must be settled exclusively by peaceful means, the more so in the present world which is oversaturated with weapons of mass destruction. That is our position of principle. Nuclear war will have catastrophic consequences for humanity. It is high time that ruling circles in the West also realize this simple truth of the nuclear age.

[Bovin] You were quite correct to say that these two tendencies currently stand out clearly in international life, one of them directed toward reviving detente, returning to detente, and overcoming the present situation; and the other boiling down to this, to continuing the arms race. Those documents you were speaking about belonged to public organizations and movements. Another thing that is now a very characteristic feature, so to speak, of that portion of history through which we are living is this, that on the one hand the West, the Americans and their allies, continue to approach the solution of world problems primarily from the standpoint of strength or lack of it; while on the other hand, there is this new and very important point: that public opinion assumes ever greater importance in international relations. Take all of these antinuclear movements, all of these nongovernmental committeees, organizations, and groups coming out in favor of peace: The tendency toward increasing the relative weight of public opinion in world politics is very noticeable, obviously, but unfortunately public opinion cannot yet impose its will on the ruling circles of the capitalist world.

In any event, it is clear, of course, that undoubtedly even the American Administration is compelled to respond in some way to the antinuclear movement; it is compelled to maneuver to draw a much greater curtain of demagogy around its policies in an attempt to convince people.

But since we are talking about tendencies, it seems to me that with time this relative weight of world public opinion is going to grow and that this will make it difficult for the aggressive circles to implement their militarist policies. And this will work to the advantage of peace, detente, and disarmament. Thus, when we speak about Comrade Chernenko's replies to these letters, we should have in mind this general background, about which I want to say a few words.

Missiles in West Europe

[Shishlin] I would like to add in this connection that these public attitudes and the active public support for detente and normalization of international relations are indeed being perceived noticeably in the radicalization of the positions of opposition forces, of opposition political parties.

For it remains a fact that even under the previous West German Government, when there was a coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats, West Germany became the number one customer of the United States for the deployment of first-strike weapons on the territory of Western Europe. Now, however, the West German Social Democrats are essentially opposing the deployment of nuclear missiles on West European territory. Egon Bahr in particular, one of the major specialists on these problems, notes quite fairly that once the American missiles made their appearance on West European territory, the atmosphere deteriorated. The British Labor Party also occupies a fairly radical position.

[Bovin] Yes, it, too, holds a radical position.

[Shishlin] In Italian political circles, too, there are opposition forces, and of course I am not talking about the forces which occupy the extreme right wing. They, too, are quite resolute, specially, of course, the Communists, who condemn this massive buildup of armaments being urged along by the actions of the present U.S. Administration. But it is in the struggle between these tendencies that today's peace is being determined, a peace that is still nervous and still filled with alarm; it is not an easy peace.

[Levin] I would also add to what you have been saying, Nikolay Vladi[illegible]rovich, that recently some quite substantial changes have taken place in the positions and approaches of the Social Democratic parties of Norway and Denmark to the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe. We all remember, comrades, that the idea of setting up this nuclear-free zone was expressed for the first time by Kekkonen, president of Finland, way back in 1963. Then Denmark and Norway had Social Democratic governments, but they did not pursue a positive approach on this issue. Now they are coming out unambiguously in favor of a nuclear-free zone.

Moreover, the leaders of the conservative parties even in the countries of northern Europe have exprssed a willingness to discuss the possibility of holding a conference at the end of the year on the issue of setting up a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe. They say this certainly does not mean that they support this idea. This is the same maneuver you mentioned, Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, when the ruling circles are compelled to take into account the position of the public and to cover up their positions with demagogy. And the position of the Soviet Union stimulates this movement for the creation of nuclear-free zones in a very active way.

The reply by Comrade Chernenko to the representatives of the Treaty Now movement expressed the Soviet Union's willingness to discuss the whole set of issues with the countries concerned. We are prepared to undertake the nonuse of nuclear weapons against states in northern Europe that become participants in a nuclear-free zone. We are prepared to become its guarantor and to examine the question of some measures -- and substantial ones at that -- which would apply to our own territory adjacent to the zone. We have also expressed a willingness to discuss with interested parties the question of applying nuclear-free status to the Baltic Sea. On this point I would like to note specifically the fact that the Soviet Union is not making its steps conditional on a positive attitude toward the nuclear-free zone by the Western Powers. In other words, our goodwill and our support for this idea is evident, and it is of course having an effect on attitudes and political actions, as we see.

'Star Wars'

But this, so to speak, is just one tendency. The other tendency is shown in the policy of the United States and NATO, and here we return once again to the problem of star wars, an idea which, by all accounts, the Washington administration is in no way disposed to give up and which it persistently continues to push on public opinion under various packaging.

[Bovin] The Americans are now setting themselves the task of drawing Western Europe into the actual implementation of this strategic defense initiative, and a seminar of the West German Wehrkunde society took place in Munich a week ago which was to have been addressed by the U.S. defense secretary, but he was prevented from flying in by bad weather and his report was read by Richard Perle, a well-known conservative figure in the U.S. Defense Department. Other Western figures spoke there: Kohl gave a speech, and so did the French defense minister. Although all these people were bowing and scraping to the Americans, there were, nevertheless, differing positions. The French defense minister pointed out quite transparently that this entire space wars idea, the idea of this space defense, will bring about a new spiral in the arms race. That, in fact, was the essence of his position. Kohl's position was quite different. In effect, Kohl showed complete solidarity with the Americans, and if, perhaps, Britain has always been considered America's number one ally in Western Europe, then now, perhaps...

[Shishlin interrupts] Where star wars are concerned, it is of course West Germany.

[Bovin] Yes, it is very likely that we are now seeing Kohl in front. But the overall dominant theme is, of course, a theme of alarm, because all of them are frightened by the fact that no one can imagine just what kind of defense this will be, while all of them take note that it will inevitably mean a new element of instability and a new spiral in the arms race, and I therefore repeat that the mood is one of alarm. And here again there is this paradox: On the one hand there is the opinion of the broad strata of the public, expressed with sufficient clarity; and on the other there are those at the top, in the German Federal Republic and in America, who virtually without paying any attention to what is taking place around them continue to press their own line.

[Shishlin] Aside from those countries we have mentioned, there is Italy, which in my opinion is fairly restrained in its attitude, even at the governmental level, to American ideas in this star wars field. There are the neutral and nonaligned countries in Europe which have been highly critical...

[Bovin, speaking simultaneously] But even more so.

[Shishlin]...in their reception of this American undertaking. At present, the United States is conducting fairly energetic propaganda and political work in order to sanctify these plans with the agreement of its NATO partners. Just quite recently, on 13 February, the special consultative NATO group finished its work. Burt, U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, took part in the group on behalf of the Americans. Indeed, a highly characteristic thing -- perhaps to a lesser degree for the American President but particularly for his closest circle -- is that on the threshold of the Soviet-American talks, the new talks, they have been adopting such completely fossilized postures. Truthfully, they are at present removing the camouflage nets from the obstacles they erected back at the time of the previous talks which broke down precisely as a result of the rigid, inflexible, and destructive U.S. position. Now they consider it necessary to remove the camouflage from these obstacles, and I think they are thereby, along with actions in other directions, of course, creating a fairly bad psychological atmosphere on the eve of these very important and responsible talks. The President himself, for instance, who never tires of displaying his adherence to this star wars idea, at least still somehow tries to make the proviso that the United States will be ready to discuss this topic in Geneva; but Weinberger, Burt, and Perle, who have already been mentioned here, are proclaiming, quite forthrightly, something akin to a position based on issuing ultimatums.

[Levin] Incidentally, the other day there was also an article in THE WASHINGTON POST which reveals the significance of the talk about research work in the realm of space armaments.

Getler, the author of the article, said that certain groups within the administration and the American military are stepping up their pressure for considering a limited use of some of the technology developed within the framework of the star wars program in the near future without awaiting the results of the completion of the long-term research in the field of antimissile defense being proposed by Reagan. This is what we were talking about earlier, namely, that the research work is inseparably linked with military plans, and one cannot be separated from the other. Those who attempt to lull themselves with the thought that the research work by no means signifies a step toward space aramements are deeply mistaken. The statement by THE WASHINGTON POST in this regard is very noteworthy indeed. Moreover, the United States has been intensively stepping up its military preparations, and this is reflected in the draft state budget presented for the 1985-86 fiscal year.

U.S. Draft Budget

[Bovin] It is a rather curious budget, because in general even Reagan realizes that the enormous deficit is a weight around his feet, and Reagan's general idea is to begin reducing this deficit somehow. Well, how can that be done? One needs to reduce state expenditures. Another option is to raise taxes. He does not wish to and cannot yet raise taxes because this would be counter to, if you like, his outlook on the economy. There remains the alternative of reducing state expenditure. It would seem that there is vast room for action in this regard. Reagan is above all beginning to reduce expenditure on social programs. Now this budget is reducing these programs by $40 billion. This is connected above all with health care. It is connected with assistance to farmers and agriculture where there is a whole number of programs. It is connected with other payments being made by the state, which in various ways support the standard of living of the poor sections of the American population. Now Reagan is proposing to give up a lot in this field, while leaving intact and even increasing military expenditures by $30 billion.

[Shishlin] In support of the economic approach of the present administration to the spending of state resources, it is being argued that in actual fact substantially more should be spent on military expenditure...

[Bovin, speaking simultaneously] Yes, indeed.

[Shishlin] ...Than we are planning to spend. Therefore, this is the minimum with which one cannot do without.

[Bovin] Of course, so the argument runs.

What we need is, let us say, $400 billion; but we are not asking for $400 billion. This then is approximately the rather funny logic. But one must say that this budget has sent shivers through not only the Democrats but the Republicans as well, and one can quite clearly forecast that Reagan will face a battle in Congress over this budget.

[Levin] Incidentally, what for instance, do the cuts in allocations for social needs in the state budget signify for the State of New York? The reductions in outlay to assist local authorities that are being planned by Reagan will lead to the state being deprived of $2 billion. This means that the program for medical assistance to the poorest citizens will have to be cut by $100 million and that allocations for the development of communal transport will be cut by $427 million, which will result in bus and subway fares rising to $1. Incidentally, as a result of Reagan's reductions, it is planned to cut housing construction by 47 percent. Those then are, so to speak, the social aspects of Reagan's draft budget, which yet again proves that a policy which is directed at achieving military superiority -- this militarist course of Washington's -- is antipeople, both with regard to other world states and peoples and also with regard to the United States' own people.

For this reason, quite naturally, such a policy is provoking mounting resistance in NATO circles as well. In particular, this may be judged by the talks held in Moscow between Comrade Tikhonov and Andreas Papandreou, the Greek prime minister.

Stockholm Conference

[Shishlin] Before we say something about the Greek prime minister's visit, Viktor Nikolayevich, I should like to return to that first trend that was mentioned at the beginning of our discussion, namely, the trend toward an improvement in international relations, which the foreign policies of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are working for. Indeed, we are currently striving to breathe life into the all-European process, and we do not see foreign policy as simply the area of Soviet-American dialogue or conversely of Soviet-American confrontation.

As is well known, the Soviet Union recently put forth proposals in Stockholm concerning both large-scale political measures and also immediate purely practical confidence-building measures.

[Levin] I would remind you, comrades, that at the end of January the Soviet delegation to the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe submitted a new important document titled "The Basic Provisions of a Treaty on Mutual Nonuse of Military Force and Maintenance of Relations of Peace." The pivotal provision of the proposed treaty, in which all 35 states represented at the conference could be participants, is a commitment not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional arms against one another and, consequently, not to use military force against one another in general. This commitment would mean that the participants would refrain from any use of military force incompatible with the goals and principles of the UN Charter against another participating state, especially in invading or attacking another's territory, and would not threaten the security of international maritime, air, and space communications passing through areas to which no one's national jursidiction extends. There is provision also for a commitment on the states' part not to use force against third countries, whether they be in a bilateral allied relationship with them or whether they be nonaligned or neutral.

Vienna Force Reduction Talks

[Shishlin] At the Vienna talks on the reduction of armaments and armed forces in central Europe the Soviet Union is also proposing the first step, which is to reduce our Armed Forces by 13,000, and to reach an agreement whereby the other direct participants in the talks will increase neither armaments nor armed forces in Europe; in other words, the first step.

[Levin] The Soviet proposals envisage that within a year of the entry into force of the agreement the land forces of the USSR and the United States in central Europe would be, as Nikolay Vladimirovich has already said, reduced by 20,000 and 13,000 men respectively. I want to turn attention to the fact that these reductions are to be effected by military combat units together with their arms and military equipment. However, up to 10 percent of these reductions would be made up of individual servicemen. The draft agreement submitted by the Soviet Union proceeds from the fact that talks on further and greater reductions in armed forces and armaments would be continued with the aim of achieving equal, collective levels of armed forces by the sides in central Europe totaling up to 900,000 men, including land forces totaling up to 700,000.

[Bovin] Also, it is indeed interesting that the Americans are always making a fuss on the subject of monitoring. Now they say that monitoring is necessary.

And then we say yes, good, when these forces are being withdrawn, along with national technical means of monitoring, international monitoring could be organized at certain points, inspections of some sort which would monitor whether the forces were really being withdrawn...

[Shishlin interrupts] Yes, and Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, they could even simply exchange lists of servicemen who are being withdrawn.

[Bovin] By all means. The problem of monitoring is resolved quite positively in our proposals.

[Levin] Unfortunately, we have often put forward very important initiatives, and we have often taken steps to meet the positions of the Western Powers; however, as soon as we take a step, they step back further. I would like to believe there will be better...

Papandreou's Visit

[Shishlin interrupts] And of course, a very important direction aimed at breathing life into the all-European process -- the process of detente -- is connected with the activation of bilateral relations of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries with European bourgeois countries, including Greece. And in this sense, of course, there are the results of the visit by the Greek prime minister. The results have turned out to be very fruitful. Our bilateral relations will develop, too. Among other things, very interesting plans are being mapped out in the economic sphere. On political positions, too, there is still great similarity in the approaches of Greece and the Soviet Union. Thus, I think this visit can serve as evidence of one more thing: that countries with opposed political systems can reach agreement, cooperate, and cooperate in the field of peace.

[Levin] In the West, the opinion was voiced that Papandreou's visit to Moscow aroused considerable irritation in NATO circles. The Greek premier, they said, is not keeping step with the other NATO powers.

[Bovin] Of course, the main position of Greece nowadays cuts across the position of the Americans, and this is where all the disagreements between them originate.

[Shishlin interrupts] Papandreou is indeed a participant in the initiative of the Six.

[Bovin] The Six, yes.

[Levin] Papandreou is one of the coauthors of the Delhi Declaration adopted on 28 January 1985 at the meeting of heads of states and governments of India, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania, Argentina, and Greece. This declaration contains an appeal for a universal halting of the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear arms; for the prevention of an arms race in space; and for the conclusion of a treaty on a comprehensive ban of nuclear weapons testing. The position Greece takes on these questions is wholly in keeping with the interests of the consolidation of peace. One further point to which I would like to direct attention, in which these two different tendencies are also manifested, is the Near East situation.

U.S.-USSR Mideast 'Exchange'

[Bovin] The situation there has not changed particularly; however, comrades, what is interesting is that a meeting is taking place in Vienna at which we and the Americans will exchange opinions on the Near East problem. These are not talks, and this must definitely be stressed; these are not talks; it is rather an exchange of opinions. In general, some sort of movement is intensifying around this conflict. This is natural because everyone understands that the longer such a tense situation prevails, the more likely it is that there will be an explosion of some sort there.

[Shishlin] In general, I think the Americans are setting themselves an insoluble task in the Near East. They do not wish to infringe on the interests of their privileged client, Israel, in any way, but they desire at the same time to bring Arab countries closer to them. Whereas the path to a comprehensive Near East settlement must of course be sought through purely political means, and in this sense the idea in itself of the holding of an international conference...

[Bovin interrupts] Which Israel and the United States refuse to have anything to do with, incidentally.

[Shishlin] Of course this idea is in itself vital. However, I think the events, in which the first weeks and the first months of 1985 are so rich, which expose the existence of these two tendencies in international life and confirm time and again the opposition of these two tendencies, nevertheless speak of the fact that a noticeable upsurge in those forces favoring a return of international relations to their normal course and a radical improvement of the world political climate is at hand. In this respect, the issue with which we started our conversation today -- the actions of various antiwar movements and organizations which are merging with the efforts of sober political circles and with the active position of our country and other socialist states -- makes it possible to speak of the fact that opportunities for the improvement of international relations do exist.

[Levin] At this point, comrades, we end our broadcast. Thank you for your attention. Goodbye.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS'

LD160049 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1715 GMT 15 Feb 85

["International Situation: Questions & Answers" program presented by Pavel Kasparov, foreign policy commentator for All-Union Radio; with Professor Anatoliy Andreyevich Gromyko, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences winner of a USSR State Prize and director of the Africa Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Vladimir Borisovich Lomeyko, candidate of historical science and head of the Press Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry]

Book on Nuclear Age

[Excerpts] [Kasparov] I should like to introduce to you the authors of a new book published by the Mezhdunarodnyye Otnosheniva Publishing House entitled "New Thinking in a Nuclear Age" ["Novoye Myshleniye v Yadernyy Vek"].

They are Anatoliy Andreyevich Gromyko, professor, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, USSR State Prize winner, and author of many works on problems of U.S. foreign and domestic policy and present-day international relations -- at the present time Anatoliy Andreyevich is director of the Institute of Africa of the USSR Academy of Sciences -- and Vladimir Borisovich Lomeyko, candidate of historical sciences, who has worked for a long time abroad as a journalist and who is the author of a number of books and a large number of articles on current topical problems. He is widely known on account of his contributions as a political observer of the Soviet and foreign press. He currently holds the post of head of the Press Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So, I have invited you here into the studio today to try to get a better understanding of what this new thinking in the nuclear age is, what in fact it amounts to. Anatoliy Andreyevich, please:

[Gromyko] New thinking in a nuclear age is an extremely voluminous concept. If one is going to speak about what lies at its core, it is a Marxist-Leninist world outlook, taking into consideration new factors that are arising in the nuclear era. Marxism-Leninism is an eternally new, developing, creative teaching which explains the complicated objective and subjective processes taking place in life. Of course, in our book we have primarily dealt with problems of international relations, and particularly the most acute problems of removing the threat of nuclear war. It is indeed those who represent the new thinking in a nuclear age who are saying quite definitely and proving that it is impossible to find a way out of the maze of confused and complicated problems of the present day without reflecting upon the whole sum total of factors currently influencing the development of mankind. I would like to say the following: The new thinking lies at the foundation of the approach of the CPSU and the Soviet state to the solution of the most vital problems of war and peace and the global problems of the present day in a nuclear age: the need to put an end to the arms race, to establish a new world economic order, to unite international efforts to protect the environment which, as we all recall, had been stressed at the 25th and 26th CPSU Congresses, in speeches of the leaders of our Leninist party and state, in our country's proposals at the United Nations, and in international forums.

In general, people's thought should work in the direction of creating a favorable atmosphere for talks, and there are real possibilities for this. This, indeed, is a model of the new thinking, together with the need to deflect the threat of nuclear war from mankind. For us Soviet people, therefore, the new thinking in a nuclear age correspondingly and logically flows from the attitude of the party and state and our entire people to the solution of those problems that are now becoming particularly explosive. It has to be said that belief in the need to rid the people of the arms race and ruinous wars is something that has been running through the works of the classic writers of Marxism-Leninism for a long time.

I would also like to mention the fact that the Lenin Peace Decree, which was adopted during the 1st day of the life of the Land of the Soviets, and in which the Soviet Government appealed to the warring sides to start talks on concluding a peace between peoples, this, essentially, was the manifestation of the new thinking under conditions of the international relations that existed at that time. How did the other countries -- in particular Britain, France, the United States -- react to this? They organized intervention by 14 states against us. Every Soviet person knows about this. That is why I would like to stress that in fighting for the new thinking, for ensuring that never again is mankind thrown into a new world war, which would be a thermonuclear one, we must naturally all be on our guard, and we must not merely speak with particular alarm about the need to involve the whole of mankind in the new thinking in a nuclear age, but -- in the event that we are compelled to -- we must continue to strengthen the security of the Soviet people and our friends and allies with due consideration for the behavior of imperialism in the international arena.

This -- how it is going to behave -- depends upon the balance of forces in the imperialist camp. As we know, Lenin always very carefully analyzed the processes of stratification in the ruling circiles of the capitalist countries. Lenin stressed that differences in approach to problems of war and peace among the capitalists were extremely, extremely important. In another of his works, Lenin noted the presence in the capitalist West of a pacifist camp of the international bourgeoisie, and of a crude bourgeois camp, an aggressive bourgeois camp, as he wrote, a reactionary bourgeois camp. Today it has to be said that in addition to representatives of the crude bourgeois camp, the militarists, there are many bourgeois figures in the West who understand just what the nuclear threat brings with it, who show a tendency, as Lenin said, towards pacifism. The new thinking about problems of war and peace particularly raises in a nuclear age the issue of rebuffing the aggressive intrigues of imperialism on the one hand and finding real possibilities for establishing relations with the United States of America upon the foundation of the Leninist policy of peaceful coexistence on the other. The fervent enemy of the new thinking is the philosophy of deterrence, of the theory and practice of the cold war. Mankind is indeed living through a kind of watershed in its history at the present time. The future of human civilization depends upon whether or not it will be capable of deflecting the nuclear threat, of preventing the militarization of space, and uniting its efforts in order to solve the major ecological and economic problems in order to solve the major ecological and economic problems that divide the industrially developed and the developing states.

U.S. Nuclear Position

[Kasparov] My next question is for you, Vladimir Borisovich. Is there hope that the new thinking will make headway in the West, and in the United States in particular?

[Lomeyko] Of course, this is not a simple question, and the reply to it depends upon many factors, first and foremost upon the realization by the politically active part of the Western public, of those global threats which the self-seeking nature of capitalism poses to the whole of mankind in a nuclear age. For the sake of obtaining super-profits, the military-industrial complex is overstoking the armaments furnace, into which it is hurling thousands of millions in resources that are so necessary for the social requirements of these same countries, as well as for aid to backward and developing states, and ultimately for the protection of the environment. Among the tendencies giving rise to hope, I would first like to mention the growing understanding in the most varied states of various capitalist countries of the danger of the nuclear arms race to the very existence of civilization.

Just 10 years ago -- even 6 years ago -- the ideas of freezing nuclear arsenals and rejecting the use of nuclear weapons had captured the minds of relatively few political and public figures in the West. Now they have become the slogans of mass antinuclear movements there. The movements desiring a new economic order and the protection of the environment were mainly regional and local in character until recently, now, however, more and more people -- and not just politicians and public figures, but the ordinary "man in the street" as they like to put it in the West -- are disturbed by these problems and see them as being closely linked with the nuclear arms race.

In order to survive and to save the earth, our common home, people must first and foremost realize the global danger that threatens the whole of the human race. It is about this that we write our book. Before it is too late we must remove the charges from and render harmless the three main time-bombs, figuratively speaking, the arms race bomb; the bomb that is the growing gap between the developed and the developing countries; and the so-called ecological bomb, that is to say, the progressive destruction of the environment.

The hopes placed upon the victory of the new thinking in a nuclear age are hopes placed upon the all-conquering strength of reason.

We believe that reason will triumph in the struggle against the princes of nuclear darkness, the philosophers and the politicians of deterrence. We believed that reason will be the winner in the clash with nuclear madness, as Chingiz Aytmatov, our famous writer, wrote with such penetrating force in his recent article in PRAVDA entitled: "Reason in a Nuclear Siege."

Philosophy of Deterrence

[Kasparov] Anatoliy Andreyevich, what are they trying to prove, those who support the philosppy of deterrence?

[Gromyko] The philosophy of deterrence? One can give the following answer to this question: The philosophers and advocates of nuclear deterrence are almost willing to make a god out of the atomic bomb, you know. And now these space weapons are aimed against people on earth. They are ready to idolize them as the things that save Western civilization. They try to convince the world that it is only thanks to atomic weapons that the West, supposedly, has been able to ward off war. Thus, if you think about the way in which they put the question, they are trying to prove that nuclear weapons are the guarantee of universal peace and best means against their own fears. Those who champion the philosophy of deterrence do not want to conclude an agreement on the non-use to join our country in such a noble initiative, one might say, as the pledge we have undertaken not be be the first to use nuclear weapons.

[Kasparov] Vladimir Borisovich, you spoke about these time bombs that threaten our earth. Clearly, the most dangerous of the three is the arms race, primarily the nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union is therefore consistently and tirelessly putting forward peace initiatives aimed at preventing an arms race in space and ending the arms race on earth. But how dangerous, against the whole of this background, is the ecological bomb?

[Lomeyko] Unfortunately, far from everyone has yet recognized the dangers that are coming to face us brought about by the progressive pollution of the environment, although I must admit that the numbers of anxious voices are increasing. Many scientists predict that the vital resources of mankind are being threatened as a result of soil erosion, deforestation and reductions in tilled land, of the onslaught of the deserts and the pollution of the waters. Mankind is faced full square with the problems of working out a planetary strategy for the preservation and replenishment of mankind's natural resources.

[Kasparov] Anatoliy Andreyevich, in your book, you write about the bridge across the divide between the North and the South. What do you mean by this?

[Gromyko] The arms race, you see, does not merely aggravate relations between East and West, as people sometimes say. It deepens the gulf between the capitalist, industrially developed states and the poorly developed states.

In international literature, it is normal to call this the gulf between North and South. In so doing, bourgeois literature used the word "North" to mean the industrially developed countries and "South" to mean the poor, developing countries. As we know, some people try to automatically include the socialist countries in the North group, thereby unfairly placing equal responsibility upon them for the low level of development of the Southern Hemisphere countries. This, of course, is an attempt undertaken without the right resources.

Nevertheless, in geographical terms some evidently can speak -- with some provisos -- about the gap between the North and South becoming dramatically deeper.

And development in this direction is fraught with terrible cataclysms in our interdependent world. Therefore, the new thinking in a nuclear age provides for the recognition of the priority of these problems and for the search for ways of solving them. The reason for the gap that exists in the development of North and South is clear: as a rule it is the colonial heritage; the result of prolonged cruel exploitation of the population of the former dependent countries by colonialists. Here I would like to note that despite achieving political independence, many countries of the so-called Third World nevertheless continue to suffer under the heritage of the past, and, at the present time, particularly from the neocolonialist methods with which the transnational companies operate without mercy."

[Kasparov] Anatoliy Andreyevich, some time ago there were not all that many politicians and scientists in the developing countries who viewed seriously the direct threat posed to them by nuclear war. In other words, it was said that this will not touch remote parts of the globe. What are you able to say in this connection now?

[Gromyko] Let's face facts. The latest research shows that in the event of nuclear disaster not one single continent will remain outside the affected area. Even in places where the bombs do not fall, the rupture of the ecological balance will be sufficiently great as to make reality, though in more terrible form, words that were carved on an obelisk during the times of the pharoahs. I have brought a translation of these words and would like to read them. From the height of my throne I weep on account of a great calamity. During my reign, for 7 years there has been no flooding of the Nile. There is little grain left. There is not enough food. People have become thieves and steal from their neighbors. People would like to flee, but cannot; the children cry. Young men move around like old men, dragging their bent legs along. Their souls are broken. The council of the great is empty. The wind blows everywhere. All is finished. These are words from an ancient chronicle, and as you see, this is very figurative. In my view, it is a strongly written piece. To some degree it reflects what would happen to the Southern Hemisphere if American imperialism imposed thermonuclear war upon mankind.

[Kasparov] Vladimir Borisovich, what are the sources of the political thinking of the philosophers of deterrence, these theoreticians and practitioners of all kinds of the doctrine of limited and prolonged nuclear wars?

[Lomeyko] Of course, there is not just one source, the sources lie in many factors which are historic, economic and psychological. I am going to dwell on just one of them. In our view, the most influential figures of the military-industrial complex in the West are introducing quite deliberately into the public opinion of the United States and the whole rest of the world a view of peace through the prism of nuclear deterrence: In so doing, they hope to achieve several aims at the same time. Briefly, these can be reduced to the following: The philosophers and politicians of deterrence are striving to halt the process whereby the economic and political influence of the United States in the world is being unswervingly narrowed and to do so by means of drawing their allies into the engulfing pit of the arms race and by means of intimidating them with the possibility of a nuclear conflict before which the United States would allegedly not stop short if it perceived a threat to its so-called vital interests.

Upon the socialist countries the philosophy and practice of deterrence strives to impose an arms race that would slow down the rate of our economic development. Toward the developing countries the philosophy and practice of deterrence pursue the objective of intimidating and holding back the national liberation movement. It draws the developing countries into internecine and regional conflicts and makes them even more dependent upon the United States and other NATO countries.

As far as the countries of Western Europe are concerned, here, too, the task is set of getting these countries used to the idea that it is possible for limited or protracted nuclear war to break out. All this, according to calculations made by official Washington, should strengthen the military and political alliance of the West, with the United States, of course, indisputedly in the leading role, as they consider. At the same time, the task is pursued of limiting economic cooperation between the countries of Western Europe and their neighboring countries in Eastern Europe.

If I am to sum up all that I have just said, then it is perfectly clear that the philosophy and practice of deterrence have been set the task of engendering a kind of universal end of the world feeling, a kind of Armageddon, and consequently fear, suspicion, public apathy, and a decline in the social and economic activity of the broad masses of the population in the capitalist countries; although, of course, they would like to implant the same feelings in our countries, too, by means of the various radio voices.

The whole of this dangerous strategy by the princes of the nuclear darkness, which the champions of militarism are, is directed toward the achievement of military superiority in the world by the United States, toward realizing its imperialist claims. This same aim is served now by the new strategic initiative of President Reagan, the creation of the notorious antimissile shield, from behind which it would be possible, they calculate, to launch nuclear arrows at the Soviet Union and go unpunished.

[Kasparov] Anatoliy Andreyevich, let me ask you the last question. A whole range of statesmen in the West, primarily American statesmen, are now asserting that the arms race does not bring great danger for humanity with it, that on the contrary, it is virtually the guarantee that peace will be preserved. What do you think in this connection?

[Gromyko] Similar assertions being made in Washington, and unfortunately, very unfortunately indeed, in some other NATO capitals, are, I shall be perfectly frank, utter nonsense. In my view, they merely confirm what was once said by the great Spanish painter Goya: When reason falls asleep, monsters are born. Sleeping reason really is a characteristic feature of those who champion the philosophy of deterrence, you know. Well, let me repeat, when reason falls asleep, monsters are born. And you know indeed that when reason does go to sleep, monstrous militarist policies really are brought into being, which the most adventurist-minded forces in the United States are in no way disposed to case aside. Those who champion the philosophy of deterrence strive to inspire pessimism. Vladimir Borisovich has already spoken about this. They try to paralyze the will of people who live on this earth. For us, the only true approach is the struggle to ensure that people realize the total danger of the nuclear threat, but, and this is the main thing, and I would like to stress it particularly, they should be filled with resolve to overcome this threat.

The history of the struggle against militarism, you know, is developing in precisely this direction. The ranks of the antiwar movement are getting wider, more and more new currents are blending with it -- religious and military figures, doctors, people in the world of arts, scientists, and primarily those who are engaged in the study of the problems of war and peace -- at least, that is what we would like to believe when we speak about Western scientists. We are also seeing more and more millions of people on every continent of the globe being filled with deep indignation against the inhumanity of the arms race, which is being imposed upon the world by the Reagan administration. There is hunger and poverty in many developing countries. There is the callous and barbarous attitude of capitalism toward nature. We can see that insight on the part of the world public is gaining strength as far as the global threats that are advancing upon humanity are concerned. The real possibilities for solving them, for solving these global problems, they lie, as we have already discovered during our conversation, they lie along the path of ending the arms race.

Ultimately, they amount to this, to universal and complete disarmament. However, there is no doubt that the greatest firm conviction is being imparted to people today by the consistent love of peace of the Soviet people; the Leninist foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which today view the maintenance of the military and strategic parity with the world of capitalism as the guarantee of national and international security, the guarantee that peace will be preserved on earth. It is to this, as we all well know, that the peaceloving initiatives of the CPSU and the Soviet state are directed, it is this that is served by the peace code in the nuclear age, which Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko has proposed to all nuclear states. Faith in the inevitability of the victory of reason has always been inherent in Marxist-Leninists. As Karl Marx, that great German, stressed: In world history reason is always triumphant.

[Kasparov] Thank you very much indeed, Anatoliy Andreyevich, and you too, Vladimir Borisovich, for your very interesting discussion. Permit me to express the hope that you will also be our guest in the future on our program, International Situation: Questions & Answers.

Spain's Relations With NATO

Our regular radio listeners Shikh-Murat Kurbanovich Mamedov from Ashkhabad and Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Tyutrin from the town of Orekhovo-Zuyevo in Moscow Oblast, as well as others, address a request to us to tell of Spain's relations with NATO, as well as about the prospects of the withdrawal of that country from the North Atlantic bloc.

Spain is the 16th and latest member of NATO, since it joined the organization in the spring of 1982. This decision was taken by the right-wing centrist government of Calvo-Sotelo, who succeeded in pushing a draft bill through the congress on the accession of Spain to the Western military bloc just a few months before the victory of the Socialist Party in the parliamentary elections. Similar actions by the conservatives aroused an outburst of indignation in 1982 from representatives of left-wing parties, including the Socialist Party, as well as all peace-loving forces in the country.

Speaking from the platform in the Cortes at that time, Felipe Gonzales, the present head of the Spanish Government but then leader of the opposition Spanish Socialist Workers Party, cited convincing arguments as evidence that Spain had no place in NATO. Another phrase, too, which subsequently became very well known, also belongs to Gonzalez: If the centrists, profiting from their majority in the congress, draw Spain into NATO, then the Socialists, when they gain the majority in parliament, will adopt a decision on the withdrawal of the country from the bloc precisely in the same way.

These words by Gonzalez were destined to only half come true, this being that by October 1982, the Socialists, as a result of their election victory, really obtained a decisive majority in the congress. However, the issue of the country's withdrawal from the North Atlantic bloc remains unresolved to this day. Moreover, one can draw the conclusion from reports reaching us from Madrid that perhaps Spain has never been so far from a decision to withdraw from NATO in all the years of rule by the Socialists as a present.

In this connection, it is quite worth noting the present utterances of Felipe Gonzalez concerning the fact that Spain's problem of withdrawing from NATO, he said, is a problem not of feelings, but of reason. Talking recently with EFE agency journalists, the head of the Spanish Government deemed it necessary to confirm his earlier statements that if, during the course of the referendum planned by him on the issue of the country's withdrawal from NATO, the country votes in favor of this step, then Spain will all the same leave NATO. However, in stating this, Gonzalez also did not begin to conceal the fact that he is all the same relying on the majority of Spaniards voting for the affiliation of their native land with the Atlantic alliance.

However, Spanish Defense Minister Serra has spoken out more frankly than anyone else on this topic. In an interview with the Madrid paper EL PAIS, he said, without batting an eyelid, as it is called, that to leave NATO would be irresponsible in the highest degree for Spain. And, replying to a question about what had caused such a radical change in the position of the leaders of the Spanish Socialists as regards NATO, the minister merely said: The reason why we took this decision is not so important; what is important is that it is the correct one at present. However, the majority of Spain's population does not agree with precisely the fact that such a decision is correct. As if replying to the provocative utterances of the minister, (Juan Gomez), president of the national organization of justice and peace, stressed that real irresponsibility would be not Spain's withdrawal from NATO, but the reverse -- participation by the country in that aggressive imperialist bloc without any grounds for so doing.

Telegrams arriving from Spain these days also report that at the initiative of the general union of workers and workers' commissions conferences and meetings of the public, mass demonstrations are taking place in many major towns of Spain, including Madrid, Bilbao, and others. Participants in these events are demanding that the Gonzalez government fulfills its elections promise and announces Spain's withdrawal from the North Atlantic bloc.

PERLE STATEMENT ON 'ANTINUCLEAR' ALLIES 'IMPUDENT'

LD170019 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Boris Andrianov commentary]

[Text] As the REUTER agency reported from Washington, Assistant U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Perle stated during a television appearance: If our allies want to be under the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella, then they must also share with the United States the danger of possible war. At the microphone is Boris Andrianov with a latest news commentary:

[Andrianov] Richard Perle is well known far beyond the borders of the United States as a representative of the most frenzied militarist circles in Washington. Even in the U.S. war department he is regarded as one of the most out-and-out super hawks. This assistant to the Pentagon chief deals with nuclear issues, or to put it more precisely, with the problems linked with U.S. preparations for the waging of thermonuclear war.

Indeed it is this circumstance that explained his statement addressed to America's allies. Antinuclear tendencies are becoming increasingly obvious among them, to use Perle's own words. This, Weinberger's assistant is forced to admit, is giving rise to serious concern on the part of the Washington administration. What is it worried about, in concrete terms? It would seem that it is worried by the fact that the threat of security -- allegedly brought about by the increase in the number of U.S. allies coming out firmly against U.S. deployment of any nuclear weapons on their territory -- is growing, as Richard Perle stated.

Developing this thesis, Perle alleges that the antinuclear feeling in a number of countries is brought about by a desire to detach these countries from the United States and to deprive them of the nuclear umbrella Washington offers so magnanimously, acting with the best of intentions. Let me say right away that there is not a grain of truth in Richard Perle's assertion; nor is that surprising. For a long time he has rightly been considered the mouthpiece of the American hawks. It is in precisely that capacity that he is being used by official Washington when there is an urgent need to dish out a further helping of disinformation on an international scale.

Even in the Western world, however, there are more and more people ceasing to believe statements of this kind by politicians from across the ocean. Understanding is growing there, of the threatening consequences that are attendant upon the Pentagon's saturation of its foreign bases with new types of mass destruction weapons. Some of America's allies, with complete justification, are looking upon the notorious U.S. nuclear umbrella as a kind of poisoned chalice.

Of course, this is a direct result of the antiwar and antinuclear movement that is building up its strength on different continents where the people recognize that Washington's global strategy dooms them to the role of U.S. nuclear hostages. The unwillingness of a number of countries to reconcile themselves to this fate is what is causing the concern within the present Washington administration, as indicated, among other things, by Richard Perle's impudent statement.

ACADEMICIAN CHAZOV REVIEWS VISIT TO U.S.

LD151748 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] New York February 15 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes reports:

Our tour of the USA has been a very useful experience, said Academician Yevgeniy Chazov, director of the All-Union Cardiological Research Centre of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, co-chairman of the international movement "Physicians of the World for Preventing Nuclear War" told a TASS correspondent on the eve of his return home. Academician Chazov was on a visit in the USA at the head of a delegation of Soviet scientists, who toured a number of American cities. The members of the delegation gave lectures, met with representatives of the broad American public, gave press conferences and spoke on American television. The delegation attended a national conference in Los Angeles on the influential public organization "Physicians for Social Responsibility".

Our contacts with the American colleagues were interesting and fruitful, the Soviet academician said. At the same time the tour made it possible to bring to large American audiences the truth about the USSR's peaceable policy, the fact that our country sincerely strives for peace and friendship among nations.

The main threat hanging over mankind nowadays is the threat of nuclear war, the scientist continued. It may turn not only into a catastrophe for human civilization, but also to death of every living thing on earth. Therefore physicians have a special responsibility to bear in this day and age for the prevention of nuclear war. The Soviet scientists, Yevgeniy Chazov pointed out, in common with the entire Soviet people, have faith in human visdom, in the victory of life on earth. But one of the most important conditions for that is the building up of a climate of confidence in relations between the states in particular between the USSR and the USA.

We have carried from the press conference in Los Angeles, from the whole of our tour the firm conviction that a majority of the Americans are also seriously alarmed by the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, the head of the Soviet delegation stressed in conclusion. They condemn Washington's attempts at spreading the arms race to outer space, sincerely wish to develop friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

U.S.-CANADIAN 'BORDER STAR' EXERCISES NOTED

LD152029 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Washington February 15 TASS -- Large-scale joint exercises, codenamed "Border Star-85", of the Armed Forces of the United States and Canada are to be held in the United States territory in March this year.

According to a Pentagon spokesman, taking part in the exercises from the U.S. side will be about 30,000 servicemen from among the Army, the Air Force, the Marine Corps as well as National Guard units. The exercises will take place in the territories of Texas and New Mexico. Observers point out that the forthcoming large-scale military exercises are yet another evidence of Washington's endeavours to draw the land of the "Maple Leaf" deeper into U.S. military preparations.

KABUL PRESS CONFERENCE REVEALS PRC 'INTERFERENCE'

LD181114 Moscow TASS in English 1042 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul February 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Herman Baykov reports: Local and foreign journalists attending a press conference here have been shown various kinds of Chinese-made arms, which are being supplied to Afghan counter-revolutionaries by the People's Republic of China in large quantities, as well as documents attesting to China's widening interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Beijing, Daoud Kawyan, vice-president of the BAKHTAR news agency, said at the press conference, has become one of the main organizing centers in the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It is providing counter-revolutionary bandits with light arms, explosives, anti-tank and infantry mines, submachine-guns, large-caliber machine-guns, recoilless guns, and anti-aircraft guns.

Chinese missile launchers have been used to fire at residential districts in Kabul. That barbarous act has blown their mask off the Beijing hegemonists who pay lip service to non-interference in the home affairs of other countries, while in fact perpetrating most direct interference in the affairs of neighbouring states.

Along with arms supplies, China is taking an active part in the military training of counter-revolutionary bandits. Chinese instructors together with American and Egyptian instructors are doing that at counter-revolutionaries' camps in Pakistan. Simultaneously such training is also being given in China itself, in Xinjiang Province.

Like Washington, the Beijing authorities have taken a hostile attitude to national liberation movements, the BAKHTAR vice-president said.

Journalists were shown intercepted letters sent by representatives of the bandit formations Ittihade-Islami Mujahidin Afghanistan and Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan, which are documentary proofs of the PRC's links with Afghan counter-revolution. The letters report the arrival of arms to gangs, express gratitude for those arms, ask for the dispatch of new kinds of weaponry, and report a meeting of Chinese instructors in a counter-revolutionary gang in Afghan territory.

Two former commanders of bandit gangs, who had voluntarily surrendered to the authorities, spoke at the press conference. They said that, after they had joined counter-revolutionaries under the impact of hostile propaganda, they had undergone training under Chinese instructors in Pakistan.

Answering journalists' questions, a spokesman for the DRA Foreign Ministry, a spokesman for the DRA National Defense Ministry and Daoud Kawyan, who conducted the press conference, stressed that along with direct interference, China is also engaging in large-scale psychological and ideological warfare against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Over the years of the revolution, the volume of Radio Beijing's subversive broadcasting has been doubled. China is also making its technical systems available to bandits, a fact openly disclosed during his visit to Pakistan by the director of XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

DRA LETTER PROTESTS FRG 'HOSTILE ACTIVITY'

LD151633 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul February 15 TASS -- The Afghan Foreign Ministry has lodged a protest with West Germany's charge d'affaires in Afghanistan over the continued illegal crossing of West German journalists, servicemen and politicians inside Afghan territory. The note assesses the actions by the West German official authorities, aimed to help gangs of Afghan counter-revolutionaries and gather intelligence, as overt interference in internal affairs of Afghanistan and encroachment on the Republic's sovereignty. Such actions, the document points out, directly contradict norms and principles of international law, as well as bilateral diplomatic relations. They give rise to wrath and indignation of the Afghan people.

The protest note points out that the West German mass media sharply intensified of late their hostile and subversive propaganda against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The campaign enjoys direct support of the West German ruling circles and is sometimes even coordinated by them, which is confirmed not only by authoritative world press sources, but also by mass media bodies in the Federal Republic itself.

The note presents an example of secret violation of the Afghan border. Bundestag deputy Juergen-Gerhard Todenhoefer illegally crossed inside Afghan territory and West German television showed a report of the unlawful action, that not only grossly distorted the reality, but also called on the West German authorities to increase aid to Afghan bandits.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry strongly condemns the hostile activity of the West German authorities against Afghanistan. Expressing its resolute protest in this connection, the Afghan Foreign Ministry demands an immediate end to hostile actions, the protest note says.

SUPREME SOVIET, NEPALESE KING EXCHANGE GREETINGS

PM151125 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent a telegram to King of Nepal Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, congratulating him and the Nepalese people on the national holiday. The telegram contained wishes for good health and prosperity to the head of the Nepalese state and wishes for peace and progress to the people of friendly Nepal.

In an answering telegram to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the king of Nepal expressed gratitude for the congratulations.

ASEAN CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZED

PRK Statement

LD181240 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Phnom Penh February 18 TASS -- A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) has come forward with a statement about the ASEAN foreign ministers' conference which has come to a close in Bangkok. The communique on the results of the Bangkok meeting, the statement points out, has virtually reaffirmed the known stand which is being imposed upon the ASEAN states by Washington, Beijing and Bangkok. The communique distorts the true state of affairs in Kampuchea and attacks the just struggle which is being waged with the support of the Vietnamese volunteers by the servicemen of the People's Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea in the name of upholding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to put a stop to the bandit sallies of the Khmer reactionaries.

It is perfectly evident that full removal of the Polpotians from the political arena is now the main condition for a settlement of the so-called Kampuchean problem. Some ASEAN countries, too, adhere to this view. The statements in the Bangkok communique to the effect that Vietnam and Kampuchea allegedly "create obstacles to a dialogue are in point of fact an endeavor to impose China's and Thailand's stand upon the countries of Indochina, the PRK Foreign Ministry's spokesman pointed out.

The stand of the PRK, the SRV and the LPDR is clearly set out in the decisions of the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Indochinese countries in Ho Chi Minh City. Any political settlement of the problem around Kampuchea should be carried out on the basis of full respect for the inalienable national rights of the countries of the region and first of all for the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination.

Together with the fraternal peoples of Vietnam and Laos, the Kampuchean people favour a solution to all the problems by peaceful talks with a view to strengthening peace and security in South-East Asia, and welcome the efforts which are being made in this direction by other states, the statement points out.

SRV Statement

LD151743 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Hanoi February 15 TASS -- A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in connection with the completion of a conference of ASEAN foreign ministers in Bangkok. A communique on the results of the Bangkok meeting, the statement says, reiterates slanderous fabrications against Vietnam, distorts the good will of three countries of Indochina. What is more, the communique urges Western countries and China to intensify military aid to Pol Pot gangs and other Khmer reactionaries. This position only contributes to greater confrontation in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, notes the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement, undertake consistent efforts to establish a dialogue in the region. Their initiatives, however, are blocked by China's and Thailand's unfavourable stance and hostile actions. Under these conditions, the demand for "creating a constructive atmosphere", made by ASEAN countries on Vietnam, in fact means to attempt to force the countries of Indochina to accept China's and Thailand's stance as a pre-condition for talks.

This demand is utterly unjustified and is the chief obstacle in the way towards political settlement.

The position of the countries of Indochina has been clearly set forth in a statement on the results of the Ho Chi Minh conference of the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea in January 1985. Any political settlement of problems concerning Kampuchea should be carried out on the basis of respect for inalienable national rights of the countries in the region, above all the Kampuchean people themselves. Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea are of the opinion that the issues of peace and stability in Southeast Asia should be resolved through dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect. Vietnam is prepared to respond to any positive proposals by the ASEAN countries, stresses the statement by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

LAO LEADER RAPS 'REACTIONARY' U.S. POLICY

LD181321 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Vientiane February 18 TASS -- The current serious aggravation of the international situation is due to the American Administration's aggressive militarist course directed at instigating the arms race and gaining world domination, Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Laos, has declared. He delivered a report at a regular session here of the Supreme People's Assembly. The report is published in the Laotian press.

The U.S. Administration is pursuing an extremely reactionary foreign policy course, seeking to spread the race into outer space, continuing the deployment of its missiles in several Western European countries, insisting on the increase of military budgets of its NATO allies and escalating military presence in the Far East and other parts of the world. The U.S. warlike policy poses a threat to peace and security of the peoples, the report stresses.

Under these conditions, prime importance is attached to constructive initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union, other fraternal countries of the socialist community, which are directed at curbing the arms race, defusing international tension and eliminating the threat of nuclear catastrophe. The Laotian people full back the the declarations by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Konstantin Chernenko, setting forth the Leninist peaceful policy of the Soviet Union. Laos attaches great importance to the forthcoming Soviet-American talks in Geneva.

On the situation in South East Asia, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party pointed out that Laos, together with fraternal Vietnam and Kampuchea, comes out in favor of turning this region into a zone of peace, stability and goodneighbourliness. U.S. imperialism and China's ruling circles, however, are seeking to heighten tension in this region, to undermine the tendency towards dialogue between the countries of Indochina and ASEAN states, are provoking Bangkok to conduct hostile policies with regard to Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea. The Laotian people are prepared for settling all outstanding issues in inter-state relations by way of peaceful talks, but are ready at the same time, to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

Consolidation of friendship and cohesion with the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Kampuchea and other countries of the socialist community is the cornerstone of the foreign policy line of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Laotian state.

"We will continue to apply maximum effort to strengthen further all-round cooperation with fraternal countries. We are fully resolved to make our contribution to the peoples' just struggle for universal peace," Kayson/Phomvihan stressed.

CLASHES ON CHAMBODIAN-THAI BORDER REPORTED

LD172138 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Phnom Penh February 17 TASS -- Units of the People's Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea, supported by Vietnamese volunteers, have crushed large gangs of Khmer reaction, which attempted to set up bases in Kampuchea's Pursat and Battambang Provinces for conducting espionage and subversive activity against the Kampuchean people, the Kampuchean news agency SPK reports. Dozens of bandits were destroyed and ammunition, weapons and military equipment depots seized.

The developments on the Kampuchean-Thai border, the newspaper KAMPUCHEA points out, show that the forces of imperialism and international reaction carry on their undeclared war against People's Kampuchea in an effort to undermine the gains of the Kampuchean revolution. The forces of Khmer reaction, which are on imperialism's payroll, have found refuge in Thai territory with the connivance of Bangkok. The short-sighted course of the Thai authorities aiding and abetting Khmer counterrevolution, brings about a deterioration of relations between the two countries, creates a threat to peace and security in South-East Asia, the newspaper points out.

Hanoi February 17 TASS -- The Kampuchean people are confidently following the path of building the foundations of socialist society and reliably protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their homeland, says an editorial commentary in the newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

Western mass media talks profusely about "military successes" of the Pol Pot gangs, set afloat slanderous reports in an effort to undermine the international prestige of the Indo-Chinese countries. These attempts, however, suffer a fiasco. The public at large clearly sees the consistent foreign policy line of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, which advocate the turning of South-East Asia into a zone of peace, security and cooperation and a constructive dialogue between the countries of Indochina and the ASEAN states.

The Vietnamese people fully support the Kampuchean people's just struggle in the name of freedom and independence, against the forces of imperialism and international reaction, the newspaper stresses.

U.S. Maintaining Area Tension

BK161015 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1330 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Anatoliy Aleksandrov commentary]

[Text] In the past few days, there has been an increase in the number of dangerous military provocations from Thai territory against the PRK. Innocent Cambodian villagers close to the Thai border have suffered from the shelling, while under cover from Thai artillery Pol Pot bandits have attempted to wage their activities on Cambodian territory. What is behind this military activity?

The enemies of the PRK are not happy with developments there. They are unhappy with Cambodia's successes in the economic field and with the strengthening of its national defense. In the past few months, units of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army, in cooperation with Vietnamese volunteer troops, have smashed many groups of Pol Pot bandits trying to infiltrate Cambodian territory in hopes of establishing roots there and then launching armed attacks against the people's power.

The enemies of Cambodia are very worried about the stability of the western provinces, but who stands to gain from any instability in Cambodia?

The British paper THE GUARDIAN has said that the so-called resistance war in Cambodia services the strategic interests of the Western world, and that Western countries, primarily the United States, are attempting to reestablish the Pol Pot clique in power.

Why do they support this clique? The Pol Pot gang killed 3 million of their innocent compatriots. The Indonesian paper MERDEKA wrote that Washington pretends to condemn the Pol Pot regime's barbarous acts, but in practice uses this regime as an instrument to maintain permanent tension in Cambodia. The paper emphasized that the United States wants to have such a hotspot so as to lure various Southeast Asian states into its strategic circle so it can maintain a strong military presence in the region. That is why the United States has made every effort to send weapons to Pol Pot's bases on the Thai-Cambodian border. During his recent visit to Southeast Asia, Paul Wolfowitz, U.S. assistant secretary of state, stated that Washington will continue to provide aid to antigovernment Khmer groups. But it is hard for anyone to believe Washington's professions on the political and humanitarian nature of this aid. The FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW wrote that the United States does not object if the many millions of dollars provided for political support for Khmer reactionaries are used to buy weapons.

Various Indochinese countries have proposed many times to the ASEAN states that all problems should be settled through negotiations without outside interference and taking into account the legitimate interests of each party. Such negotiations could transform Southeast Asia into a peaceful and stable region as desired by all the peoples of the area.

NEW USSR AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA APPOINTED

LD172216 Moscow TASS in English 2054 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Yuriy Razdukhov as USSR ambassador to the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Yuriy Razdukhov has been in diplomatic service since 1958. He held a number of senior posts at the USSR Foreign Ministry and abroad. In 1966-1975 he was counsellor-minister of the USSR Embassies in the PRC and Bulgaria. In 1975-1980 he was USSR ambassador to Singapore.

Former Ambassador Oleg Bostorin has been relieved of his duties in connection with a new appointment.

USSR-HUNGARY TREATY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Rally Marks Anniversary

LD182347 Moscow International Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Summary] The 37th anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Hungarian Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance was marked at a festive meeting in Moscow today. The meeting was addressed by Boris Ivanov, deputy chairman of the Central Executive of the Soviet-Hungarian Friendship Society, and Janos Barabas, counselor at the Hungarian Embassy in Moscow. They both noted that the treaty laid the foundations for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. On the occasion of the anniversary, a festive session was also held at the Peoples' Friendship House in Leningrad.

Commentary on Cooperation

LD190009 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1210 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb (TASS) -- TASS commentator Boris Shestakov reports: The working people of the Soviet Union and fraternal Hungary are celebrating a noteworthy holiday today. The first treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance was signed between our countries 37 years ago.

The working people of the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic look back with pride on the path they have traveled. 'Our all-around links,' Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, stressed, 'are helping to successfully resolve the large and diverse tasks involved in creating a new society, to strengthen the positions of socialism, and to consolidate peace and peoples' security.'

The first Soviet-Hungarian treaty, which was further developed in the 1967 treaty, created the foundations for all-around mutually advantageous cooperation between our countries. Today this cooperation truly embraces all spheres of life. The militant alliance of Communists originated by the great Lenin lies at the heart of fraternal relations between the two peoples. This alliance has grown stronger and matured in revolutionary fighting and in the struggle for freedom and independence.

Meetings and talks between the party and state leaders of the USSR and Hungary have become a regular feature. The visit by the Hungarian party and government delegation to the Soviet Union in summer 1983 and the meeting between Konstantin Chernenko and Janos Kadar in June 1984 were especially important. During these talks a high appraisal was made of the development of Soviet-Hungarian relations and the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding that are characteristic of the ties between the CPSU and the MSZMP. Our countries are closely cooperating in the Warsaw Pact organization and CEMA. They are marching shoulder to shoulder in the vanguard of the forces of peace and progress.

The economic and scientific-technical cooperation, which is speeding our advance along the path of building a communist and socialist society, is gaining in scope with each passing year. Scientists from the two countries are carrying out joint research into the secrets of space and the atomic nucleus. They are breaking through new barriers in other spheres of human knowledge.

The volume of reciprocal trade is increasing. This year it will exceed R9 billion. Direct production ties are raising cooperation to a higher level.

Over one-third of trade turnover consists of articles that are made on the basis of specialization and coordinated production. A truly united labor conveyor is now operating over a distance of thousands of kilometers in the interests of raising the well-being of the working people.

Our fraternal cultures are flourishing and drawing closer together. Exchange of art works and tours by groups of entertainers and performers have become a daily practice. Soviet-Hungarian friendship has now truly become an asset possessed by millions of people. Twinning links between the republics, krays, and oblasts of the two countries are playing an important role in this.

Soviet people are deeply gratified by the successes of our friend and ally. Now that the working people of the Hungarian People's Republic are preparing to usher in the 13th MSZMP Congress and the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation from fascism with fresh labor achievements, we sincerely wish the fraternal Hungarian people happiness and new accomplishments in building developed socialism.

Soviet Official Interviewed

LD181519 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Today is the 37th anniversary of the signing of the first friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance treaty between our country and the USSR. The document sanctioned with the force of international law the new type of relationship between a small country having earlier been swept into a criminal war by its leaders, on the one hand, and a socialist world power on the other, thus laying the foundations of the friendly alliance that has become the irreplaceable guarantee of our freedom and liberty. It has contributed to a large extent to Hungary, setting out on the path of a new life, becoming able to assert itself in the international arena as an equal partner, and at the same time it helped to surmount numerous internal difficulties hindering the unraveling of the work of peaceful construction. The common work that emerged as a result of the treaty has now become the organic part of our daily lives. Our economic and technical-scientific cooperation is an important factor of our country's economic development, just as our deliveries also contribute to solving the tasks facing the people's economy of the USSR. This is the message of the interview in which Andras Domany questioned Viktor Ocheretin, head of the Budapest trade representation of the USSR:

[Begin recording] [Domany] Viktor Ivanovich, will there be any new features in trade cooperation between Hungary and the USSR this year?

[Ocheretin in Russian fading into superimposed Hungarian translation] First, I must mention a significant increase in goods traffic. The value of this will exceed R9 billion this year. It is quite feasible that we shall also exceed the figure laid out in the 5-year plan.

[Domany] I suppose it is only natural that you are asked many questions about how much energy Hungary can obtain from the USSR, and since we heard that toward the end of last year our Soviet partner delivered extra quantities of natural gas at the expense of the 1985 quota that would cause problems if deducted from this year's deliveries, the statement that talks are underway about disregarding this deduction has attracted a great deal of interest.

[Ocheretin] This is absolutely true. It is obvious that the 1985 deliveries should be reduced by the extra amount we sold last year at the request of the Hungarian Government.

Now the Hungarian Foreign Trade Ministry has again approached us with a request and it is true that we are holding talks about gas sales in 1985. The subject of these talks is the fact that this year's protocal contains the amount of natural gas to be delivered to Hungary that is required by the Hungarian economy. Nevertheless, the only certainty at the moment about this quantity is the amount remaining after deducting last year's advance deliveries. [end recording]

SOVIET, HUNGARIAN TRADE UNION AIDES HOLD TALKS

PM151435 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Delegation's Reception"]

[Text] On 14 February AUCCTU Chairman S.A. Shalayev received a Hungarian National Trade Union Council [SZOT] delegation headed by SZOT Secretary L. Bukta, that was in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the AUCCTU. During the talks, which were held in a warm and comradely atmosphere, the sides exchanged opinions on certain urgent problems of the activities of Soviet and Hungarian trade unions, and questions of the further development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries' trade unions are discussed.

CEAUSESCU, PAPANDREOU URGE NUCLEAR-FREE BALKANS

PM181509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "For Peaceful Balkans"]

[Text] Bucharest, 15 Feb -- President N. Ceausescu of Romania has met with Prime Minister A. Papandreou of Greece, who is on a short visit here.

According to AGERPRES, the sides emphasized the great importance of the agreement that has been reached on holding Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva on space and nuclear arms. They discussed relations among Balkan countries and expressed themselves in favor of strengthening trust, goodneighborliness, security, and multilateral cooperation and of transforming the region into a nuclear-free zone.

RCP RESOLUTION WELCOMES U.S.-USSR ARMS TALKS

LD161735 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Bucharest February 16 TASS -- A resolution of the Political Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party (RCP) on the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and of Romania's independence day has been issued here.

The Romanian people, the resolution points out, together with the whole of progressive mankind will mark the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism as an event of immense importance in the world history and in the struggle of the peoples of the world against the most reactionary forces of imperialism and war. The Soviet Army bore the brunt of the war and sustained tremendous casualties in the battle for the defeat of fascism.

During the war years, the document says, the RCP was at the head of the activities to unite the country's patriotic and anti-fascist forces into a broad front of struggle for Romania's withdrawal from the war and for its joining the anti-Hitler coaltion.

To avert the arms race and to defend peace are the cardinal question of our epoch, the resolution goes on. Romania welcomes the USSR's and the USA's agreement to hold talks on nuclear and space arms, and considers it a particularly important matter.

PZPR DELEGATION VISITS USSR 11-15 FEBRUARY

PM181512 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Contacts"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty contacts between the CPSU and the PZPR a delegation of PZPR officials headed by S. Gabrielski, director of the PZPR Central Committee Social and Vocational Department, visited Moscow 11-15 February and studied the CPSU's experience in party leadership of the activity of trade unions, the Komsomol, and other public organizations.

Members of the delegation had meetings and talks at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, the Moscow Oktyabrskiy CPSU Raykom, the AUCCTU, the Advanced School of the Trade Union Movement, the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Workers in Machine Building and Instrument Making, and also the party and trade union committees of Moscow's I.A. Likhachev automobile plant and the I.M. Gubkin Institute of the Petrochemical and Gas Industry.

POLISH-SOVIET SOCIETY PLANS ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

PM181517 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "An Extensive Program"]

[Text] Warsaw, 15 Feb -- An extensive program of events in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet Union's world-historic victory over Hitlerite Germany and the liberation of the Polish people from the fascist occupation forces determines the activity of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society this year.

The society's main task is to make the entire population aware of the decisive role played by the Soviet Union in the liberation of the peoples of Europe in World War II, B. Borysiuk, secretary of the society's main board, has said. Within the framework of this campaign special attention is being paid to Polish-Soviet brotherhood in Arms With the Soviet Army", which is opening soon, is devoted to precisely this topic. The program will comprise numerous meetings with liberation struggle veterans and Soviet Army servicemen, lectures, movie, and quizzes for young people about the history of the USSR's Armed Forces.

GROMYKO TO VISIT ITALY 'END OF FEBRUARY'

LD171508 Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- Andrey Gromyko, a member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, will pay an official visit to Italy at the end of February this year at the invitation of the Italian Government.

SOVIET-ITALIAN BANKING COOPERATION DISCUSSED

LD152119 Moscow TASS in English 2037 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS -- Business activity between the Soviet Union and Italy at the beginning of this year inspires certain hopes concerning the development of trade-and-economic contacts, Aris Marsanic, head of the Moscow office of the "Banca Commerciale Italiana", has told a TASS correspondent. Within one and a half months of 1985 Soviet associations and Italian firms have already signed contracts worth more than 300 million dollars.

Emphasizing good relations with Soviet financial institutions -- the State Bank of the USSR and the Foreign Trade Bank of the USSR -- the head of the Italian bank's office said that direct Soviet-Italian operations, the so-called "bank-to-bank" ones, began last year. Besides, a credit deal in European currency units was made with the Foreign Trade Bank of the USSR for the first time in autumn last year. In our view, such operations lend a great stability to financial relations between the two countries.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana and the Foreign Trade Bank of the USSR have successfully transacted financial and currency operations on the markets of third countries.

An increase interest in cooperation with the Soviet partners not only on the part of individual Italian firms but also on the part of Italian regions' chambers of commerce and industry, the cooperative organisations of the country and associations of industrialists became a distinguishing feature of last year's activities of our office in Moscow. All this confirms the Italian circles' striving for the development of business contacts with the Soviet Union, Aris Marsanic emphasized in conclusion.

SOVIET-ITALIAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION REPORTED

LD182017 Moscow TASS in English 1954 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS -- Soviet-Italian links in science and technology embrace a broad range of applied and fundamental problems. These links are maintained within the framework of inter-governmental agreements and also agreements between separate Soviet organisations and firms of Italy. Mixed commissions and industrial working groups were formed to bring about such agreements.

The ten-year programme of scientific-technical and economic cooperation between the two countries provides for joint works in approximately 50 industries, transport and agriculture and on 40 major problems of fundamental and applied explorations.

During almost 20-year long period scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and Italy attained a high-level. In many cases it led to joint developments of new technologies and models of machinery and equipment.

New promising possibilities of deepening cooperation with Italy opened as a result of rapid development in the USSR of such industries as chemistry, petro-chemistry, metallurgy, instrument and machine building, which determine the scientific-technical progress. The USSR and Italy now could jointly construct industrial units, in accordance with jointly elaborated technology, for the USSR and third countries.

There is already certain experience in doing such joint works. Industrial equipment to put out one million square metres of ceramic tiles a year is now being developed jointly with the Montedisson concern on the basis of Soviet developments in creating technology on obtaining polycarbonate. Such work is done by partners in metallurgy, power generating machine-building, chemistry, other industries. Partners frequently patent their developments in different countries.

The results of successful completion of joint developments provide a good foundation for broadening trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Italy, including such spheres as industrial cooperation and compensation deals.

REACTION TO PAPANDREOU'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR

Papandreou States Satisfaction

LD151803 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Athens February 15 TASS -- Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece has expressed profound satisfaction with the results of his official visit to the Soviet Union. It was "one of the most resultative and successful trips during the past three years," he pointed out in a statement for the press, released in the Greek capital.

That Greece and the USSR belong to different social systems, he noted, does not stand in the way of the two countries' joint political steps in such major areas as struggle against the nuclear menace and militarization of outer space.

"It is perfectly clear," Andreas Papandreou stressed, "that the views of Greece and the Soviet Union coincide on matters related to nuclear weapons. This applies to the termination of nuclear tests, non-militarization of outer space and introduction of a moratorium on the deployment of new missiles anywhere in the world." Both sides, he went on, favour the establishment of nuclear-free zones, specifically, in the Balkans.

As to the Aegean Sea, which presents a critical problem for Greece, Andreas Papandreou pointed out, the Soviet-Greek communique has the following clause: "Greece and the USSR stand for strict compliance with the provisions of the new U.N. Law of the Sea convention and the participation in it of all states."

The Greek prime minister described as "extremely important" the accords on economic cooperation between the two countries reached in Moscow.

Moscow TV on Visit

LD171938 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Feb 85

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Text] Of the events of the past week we are reviewing, the official visit to the Soviet Union by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou merits prime attention. He had meetings in Moscow with Comrades Tikhonov and Gromyko and visited Leningrad. We have long had historically shaped sympathies for the 10 million people of Greece. We are gratified that our relations with the Greek state have been going well in recent years. This fact has been confirmed by the results of the visit.

The Greek prime minister, speaking at a Kremlin dinner, formulated his country's policy on international issues as follows: We Greeks, he said, firmly aspire to assist the attainment of the highest degree of international security at the lowest possible level of arms. Such an approach is indicative of the closeness of our countries' stands. Papandreou was among the six leaders who recently signed the Delhi Declaration calling for an end to the arms race on earth and preventing its spread to space. The current Greek Government is against any presence of nuclear weapons on Greek soil and for the creation of nuclear-free zones in Europe, particularly in the Balkans.

The question of nuclear-free zones has, incidentally, once again been raised in Comrade Chernenko's response to the North European antiwar organization Treaty Now. The Soviet leader has reaffirmed our country's readiness to be the guarantor of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe. As concerns Greece, its policy arouses concealed, and at times open, exasperation in Washington.

For Greece is, after all, a member of NATO, yet according to current U.S. terminology, it feels a nuclear allergy. The Americans would like to cure not only Greece, but all their allies of such an ailment. People and governments, however, see the ailment not in a nuclear allergy, but in the spread of the nuclear infection.

Over the past week, it has still been under discussion whether it is worth punishing the Labor government of New Zealand, which banned entry of U.S. atomic warships into its ports, and how to do so. Australia is also known recently to have refused services to the Americans during tests of their new MX missiles.

No effective cures for the nuclear allergy have yet been thought up in Washington, but political pressure and threats of economic sanctions are traditional. There is a further cure: secrecy. That is, not to tell allies that nuclear weapons are being stockpiled or planned for deployment on their territory.

The trouble with secrets is that sooner or later they become public knowledge, as happened this week when it was learned through the press that the United States has plans for deploying nuclear weapons in Canada, Iceland, the Bermuda Islands, and Puerto Rico. The exposed secrets have caused fresh outbreaks of nuclear allergy, especially in Canada and Iceland, and confusion in official Washington.

Soviet-Greek 'Harmony'

LD170026 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] As reported from Athens, the Greek press is devoting a great deal of attention to the Greek Prime Minister Papandreou's recent visit to the Soviet Union.

The newspapers highly and positively appraise the results of the Greek leader's trip. As a result of the talks in Moscow, notes journalist-internationalist Eduard Kovalev, mutual understanding, confidence, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Greece have undoubtedly been strengthened. A good base has been created for further movement forward. The Soviet Union and Greece even now have a basis for cooperation both in bilateral relations and in the international arena. In the field of international politics, this relates first and foremost to the position of the USSR and Greece on the cardinal issues of preventing war and strengthening peace. The development of this interaction will undoubtedly be served by the protocol on political consultations signed during the Greek prime minister's visit to Moscow. The Soviet Union and Greece expressed their conviction in the fact that it is essential to strive for an improvement in the climate of international relations, to realize a turnabout for the policy of detente and international cooperation, to struggle for preventing the threat of war and guaranteeing a peaceful future for all of mankind.

It is of no small importance that a whole series of practical foreign policy actions by the Soviet Union and Greece are in harmony with each other. This relates, in particular, to the peace-loving initiative by the six leaders of the countries of the four continents that was confirmed at their recent meeting in Delhi, as well as to the USSR's consistent policy directed at not allowing the militarization of space, for the termination of the nuclear arms race, and the full liquidation, in the final reckoning, of nuclear weapons. Special significance is carried by the circumstance that both sides supported the fruitful idea of creating nuclear-free zones in Europe including the Balkans, having in mind as a final aim the freeing of the continent and subsequently the whole world, from nuclear weapons.

The USSR and Greece advocate in unanimity the conversion of an important region such as the Mediterranean into a zone of stable peace, security, and cooperation. The Soviet-Greek talks in Moscow and the meetings and conversations that took place here, have once again demonstrated the vitality of the policy of peaceful coexistence the Soviet Union has been carrying out since the time of its inception. They have also shown the possibilities and the prospects for cooperation in the interests of peace and security between countries with differing socioeconomic systems.

Kachanov Commentary

LD152207 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Yevgeniy Kachanov commentary]

[Text] The Athens newspapers are devoting a great deal of attention to the Soviet-Greek communique on the results of the visit to the USSR by Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of the Greek Republic. The two sides, articles and commentaries stress, confirmed their determination to expand mutually advantageous cooperation on the basis of observance of the principles expounded in the Soviet-Greek declaration of 2 October 1979. Our commentator Yevgeniy Kachanov is at the microphone:

It was pointed out more than once during the Greek prime minister's talks in Moscow that relations between the two countries are developing progressively and that they are becoming one of the convincing examples of cooperation on the basis of the principles of coexistence of states with differing sociopolitical systems. Our systems are indeed different, but there is much that unites us. For instance, the historical proximity of the Greek and Russian cultures; the support our people rendered the Greeks in the heroic struggle against the yoke of the Ottoman Empire; and, also, the community of aims in the years of World War II; for Greece was one of the countries fighting against the Hitlerite occupiers.

Finally, we all recall the episodes of the heroic struggle against the dictatorship of the black coloneis and the victory of the opposition movement, one of whose leaders was Andreas Papandreou. Now, too, the events in Greece's domestic political life, and its government's measures, arouse the most lively interest among the Soviet people.

The Soviet Union and Greece intend to continue building their relations on the basis of strict observance of the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, equality, and noninterference in one another's internal affairs, as laid down in the aforementioned Soviet-Greek declaration. These, as I have said, are principles of bilateral relations. The foundation for cooperation in the international arena, however, is the proximity of positions on the fundamental issues of preventing war and strengthening peace. Our countries, as the communique states, have agreed that the most important task at the present is to avert the threat of war and guarantee a peaceful future for mankind. The Soviet Union and Greece advocate a reduction in the level of confrontation and relaxation of tension, non-militarization of space, limitation and curtailment of both conventional and nuclear weapons right up to their complete liquidation, and advocate the establishment of a climate of confidence in Europe and throughout the world. The cooperation between our countries, the prospects for which have become even more favorable as a result of Andreas Papandreou's visit, can and should make an important contribution to the achievement of these noble aims.

TIME INTERVIEW WITH GREEK PRIME MINISTER CITED

LD181444 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] New York February 18 TASS -- U.S. TIME magazine has carried an interview with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece who has touched upon a number of international problems.

The prime minister pointed out that his country will pursue a course towards detente and towards a freeze on arms, particularly on missiles, as long as Europe is divided into blocs. He has expressed an opinion that any step which can lead away from detente to cold war poses a threat to peace. He said the existence of nuclear weapons would bring war and destruction to the region rather than will prevent it.

The Greek prime minister emphasised further that the European Economic Community and NATO cannot impose their decisions upon Greece. He went on to say that the Greeks intend to secure an opportunity for themselves to express their views. This means that they may disagree with the West over many a matter.

Touching upon the problem of the Aegean Sea, Andreas Papandreou stressed the determination of Greece to uphold its national interests there. Since all the NATO exercises in the Aegean Sea do not take Greek national interests into account, Greece does not participate in such exercises.

The head of the Greek Government, touching upon East-West relations, recalled the stand of Athens with regard to the provocation with the South Korean airliner as well as to the events in Poland. He emphasised that it was difficult for the Greeks to understand how an airliner could "accidentally" deviate from the pre-set course in this age of up-to-date equipment. Andreas Papandreou said Greece opposed the application of sanctions against Poland by the West, being of the opinion that that would make for tension and undermine detente.

GREECE REJECTS AEGEAN SEA NATO MANEUVERS

LD171445 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Athens February 17 TASS -- Greece has demanded that NATO should not hold military manoeuvres in the Aegean Sea, A. Dhrosoyiannis, deputy minister of national defence of Greece, told journalists. He pointed out that this demand was presented to U.S. Admiral William Small, commander-in-chief of the Allied Forces in Southern Europe, during his recent visit to Athens, and also sent in writing to the headquarters of the Supreme Command in Southern Europe in Naples. He said that Greece had not so far received an answer.

A. Dhrosoyiannis reaffirmed that the Greek Armed Forces would not take part in the NATO military manoeuvres while frictions with Turkey persisted and problems in relations with the North Atlantic Treaty remained. Therefore, he said, Greece will not participate in the joint "Vintex-Simex" manoeuvres, which are scheduled to be held from February 26 through March 13.

GREEK CP ISSUES DOCUMENT ON FOREIGN PRESENCE

LD182025 Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Athens February 18 TASS -- The newspaper RIZOSPASTIS has printed a document of the Communist Party of Greece, setting forth topical problems in delivering the country from foreign dependence.

Greece's NATO membership, the presence of American military bases on its territory entail the most pernicious consequences, the Communist Party of Greece believes. The document points to the danger of U.S. attempts to turn Greece into a springboard for its ventures in the region. Therefore it is of vital necessity to intensify struggle to liquidate the country's dependence on military-political plans of imperialism, primarily America, stresses the Communist Party of Greece. This is the struggle for Greece's withdrawal from NATO, dismantling of American military bases on its territory, closure of the "Voice of America" radio station and also liquidation of nuclear weapons, which is bound to promote formation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkan peninsula.

In the economic sphere, stresses the Communist Party of Greece, the country's dependence is most patently manifest in the domination of foreign capital. In 1964 in the country there were only 2 foreign banks and now their number is more than 20. The Communist Party of Greece declares against Greece's participation in the "Common Market" which is the bearer of the interests of big monopolies and increasingly turns into a military-political organization, a kind of a NATO appendage, the document stresses.

SUBJECTS FOR REAGAN-THATCHER TALKS NOTED

LD190917 Moscow TASS in English 0845 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] London February 19 TASS -- The prime minister of Britain Margaret Thatcher sets out today for a three-day to the U.S. During the visit the head of the British Government will hold talks with President Reagan and other high-ranking officials of the U.S. Administration. According to the British press, much attention will be devoted at the talks to the East-West relations, the problems of arms control and the trade and economic situation in the capitalist world.

Observers believe that in the course of the visit Washington will continue to bring pressure to bear on Britain with the aim to make it fully support its plans of the militarisation of outer space.

According to the forecasts of the British press, talks on the problems connected with the financial, trade and economic relations between the U.S. and its West European partners, including Britain, will be rather arduous.

Commentary on Visit

LD182055 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Anatoliy Gan commentary]

[Text] It is quite natural that tomorrow's visit by the British prime minister to the United States has aroused much interest, and not just in Britain, but in other West European countries as well. What with the foreign and defense secretaries accompanying the prime minister to Washington this time, it is clear the British leaders intend to discuss a wide range of matters with the American Administration. But whether this intention materializes is another matter.

What is it that is disturbing London and other NATO capitals? There are two main problems. The first is the undisguised effort underway in the United States, moreover at a high level, to undermine the basic principle of the understanding reached last month by Andrey Gromyko and George Shultz. I refer to the understanding that made possible the Soviet-American disarmament talks due to begin next month. This is the principle that the talks on reducing nuclear arms are to be conducted in a direct interrelationship with the issue of preventing a militarization of outer space. A rejection of the understanding on such an organic relationship would make the talks pointless.

Was it perhaps concern that Washington might torpedo the American-Soviet talks in Geneva that was reflected in Mrs Thatcher's interview granted to the American CBS television network? I do believe, she said, that there is a generation in power in the Kremlin who will remember the terrors and horrors of the last war, and they will be very slow to embark on another major war. She urged the West to make use of this.

The second problem in its relations with Washington that is disturbing London, and other West European capitals, too, for that matter, has been put into bold relief by the Conservative Party chairman John Gummer. He said the United States was unfairly weakening its Western allies with the strong dollar. America, he said, is importing the savings of the world and exporting the inflation.

It is already being predicted in both London and Washington that the coming talks will be tough. In London it is said that it is vitally important for the prime minister to convince President Reagan that a strong dollar is having adverse effects on Britain's economy and on the economy of other Western countries. As Robert Hicks, the member of Parliament, has said, it is clear that despite the hopes expressed before his reelection, President Reagan has no intention of reducing his budget deficit. And this, he added, can only work to the disadvantage of Britain and Europe. This trend of dollar colonialism must be halted and reversed.

But will Mrs. Thatcher be able to achieve that purpose in the coming tough talks in Washington? One of the prime minister's aides told a correspondent of the ASSOCIATED PRESS in London that in Washington the prime minister will complain, but does not intend to get into a major confrontation with Reagan over the dollar.

The conclusion seems to be obvious and the problem will scarcely be alleviated by the prime minister's intention when addressing the American Congress to concentrate on the bonds of history, language, and friendship between Britain and the United States. After all, Mrs Thatcher will be the first British prime minister to address the United States Congress since Winston Churchill did so in 1945. An honor? Yes, but it was scarcely gentlemanly on the part of American reporters to write on the very eve of the visit that Mrs Thatcher's popularity has now slumped to its lowest level in 3 years according to the polls, and is almost level with the popularity of the Labor Party. Could this not be misunderstood in the White House?

WFTU SESSION IN LONDON MARKS GROUP'S ANNIVERSARY

LD180557 Moscow TASS in English 0502 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] London February 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yevstigneyev reports:

A conference of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has been held in the British capital. It was dedicated to this year's 40th anniversary of the founding of this major international trade-union association.

The conference was attended by delegates from 14 countries as well as by the heads of Britain's leading trade unions.

The speeches at the conference sounded an impassioned call for a broader campaign of protest against the arms race, for disarmament and for the removal of the threat of a thermonuclear war which has overhung the world. The participants in the conference also pointed out that to the trade unions the struggle for peace and disarmament is inseparable from the struggle for full employment and for a rise in the living standards of the working people.

SPD DEPUTY VIEWS FRG ROLE IN U.S. SPACE PLANS

LD172312 Moscow TASS in English 2205 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Bonn February 17 TASS -- The intention of the West German Government to take part in the U.S. plans for a militarisation of outer space are a source of deep concern for the FRG's democratic public and opposition political parties.

West Germany's active participation in the so-called "strategic defence initiative" of the USA will also signal complete and unconditional gearing of the FRG to the plans of the USA for the build-up of arms, says the statement issued here by W.M. Katenhusen, Bundestag deputy from the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD].

He evaluated as "irresponsible" the decision of the FRG Government to set aside 3,000 million marks for participation in creating a permanent orbital station "Columbus", whose military aims, in his opinion, "cause no doubt".

West German science engaged in the study of outer space and the FRG's industry should not contribute to the implementation of Reagan's designs, the Bundestag deputy said. He pointed out that the appropriation of funds and the use of technology with military aims may have "disastrous consequences" for the FRG.

COMMENTARY CONDEMNS FRG'S MARKETING OF ARMS

LD181614 Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 18 Feb 85

["Death Merchants at Work" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS -- TASS commentator Lev Aksyonov writes:

Since the coming to power in the FRG of the Helmut Kohl cabinet in 1982, arms and military equipment exports from that country "have sharply increased", the DPA agency said. While over the period from 1975 to 1980 the FRG authorities granted licences for arms supplies worth 8,100 million marks, the report said, over the year of 1983 alone this figure increased, according to official statistics, to reach 8,600 million marks.

The figures cited above do not yet give an idea of the real scale of the operations by the "death merchants". The point is that Bonn does not include into the statistics of its exports the operations involving weapons manufactured jointly with other countries. At issue are such large-scale programmes as the West German-French combat planes "Alfa-jet" or "Hot" and "Milan" missiles.

The invigoration of the activities of the West German military industrial complex under the CDU/CSU-FDP [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union-Free Democratic Party] cabinet is a manifestation of the general policy of the NATO bloc, above all of the current U.S. Administration of a build-up of the arms race.

The activities of the FRG's military companies abroad are particularly dangerous because the Rhine, Bavarian and other "weapons kings" they supply their lethal products to many reactionary regimes, which use them for waging aggressive wars against other states, for suppressing the actions of the progressive public in their countries. [sentence as received] Thus, among the recipients of the weapons with the "Made in the FRG" trade mark are Israel, the Republic of South Africa, Chile, Pakistan and El Salvador. These supplies include both firearms, which are used, for example, in El Salvador for executing patriots by firing squads, and such sophisticated equipment as submarines, which are supplied to the fascist Pinochet junta. Such export operations undoubtedly heighten tensions in the "hot spots" of the world, which in its turn undermines universal peace and security of peoples.

The growing sales of arms made in the FRG have another aspect of an interpolitical character. This process coincides in time with a strengthening of the militaristic and revanchist activities in the FRG itself. The West German militarists and revanchists encouraged by irresponsible statements and actual support by influential Bonn politicians are now openly raising the question of revising the results of the Second World War, making impudent claims to the territory of the socialist countries. The military-industrial complex, which has more than once drawn the German people into the abyss of war, is the nutrient medium and material basis for such subversive activities of the "eternally yesterday's".

FRG SEEKS INDUSTRIAL BENEFIT FROM SDI SUPPORT

LD152008 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Bonn February 15 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vladimir Serov reports:

Official Bonn supports Washington's plans to spread the arms race to outer space and it actually agreed to participate in furthering American project of creating space weapons.

The signal to invigoration of the FRG's efforts in that direction was given by the FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the Munich conference which was held by the Wehrkunde society. The chancellor said that "the working group" had already been formed in Bonn to study in detail Reagan's so-called "strategic defence initiative" and possibilities of FRG's participation in its realization. He "insistently recommended" other U.S. European NATO partners to follow the FRG's example.

Following Helmut Kohl's statement, the FRG Defence Ministry right away entered into contact with representatives of West German military-industrial concerns. As was stated in Munich by FRG Defense Minister Manfred Woerner, what is at issue is "possible participation of those concerns in designing space weaponry". Our participation in these projects, he added, is possible when "this is attractive to us and promises success". In other words, leaders of the military-industrial complex of the FRG are already in expectation of their share of the pie of military orders in connection with realisation of the American "star wars" programme.

The oppositional parties, democratic circles of the FRG, denounce plans of Bonn's participation in Washington's space ventures. As was emphasized by Hermann Scheer, a disarmament expert of the parliamentary faction of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, Chancellor Kohl's support for U.S. plans is detrimental to the interests of peace and international security. Led by Washington, he said, the chancellor acts contrary to the interests of West Europeans.

"Chancellor Kohl's support for outer space militarisation plans means that he waived the interests of the FRG population, their striving for peace", stresses a statement of the Presidium of the Association of Victims of the Nazi Reigme -- the anti-fascist union.

FRG'S BAHR MAKES STATEMENT AGAINST STAR WARS

LD182249 Moscow TASS in English 2011 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Bonn February 18 TASS -- The success of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms that open in Geneva on March 12 would be largely promoted if both great powers refrained from arming themselves with new weapon systems. Egon Bahr, prominent leader of the SDPG [Social Democratic Party of Germany], director of the Hamburg Institute for the Studies of Peace Problems said this to newsmen in Hamburg today. He said that in conditions of tempestuous development of military technology the East and the West should reach an arrangement at the earliest stage not to arm themselves with the latest weapon systems. Bahr is of the opinion that renunciation by the United States of the concept of "star wars" would have a positive effect on the duration and results of the Soviet-American talks to open in Geneva.

In their previous pronouncements, Egon Bahr many times criticised the intentions of the Reagan administration to spread the arms race to outer space and warned Western Europeans against supporting those dangerous designs of the United States which contradict the interests of peace and security in Europe and all over the world.

LEADERS CONGRATULATE AL-ASAD ON REELECTION

PM131621 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 85 First Edition p 1

[Cable to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium -- date not given]

[Text] To Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Ba'th Party and President of the Syrian Arab Republic

We sent you our heartfelt congratulations, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, on your reelection to the high position of president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Under your leadership, the Syrian Arab Republic follows a firm anti-imperialist policy and is implementing important transformations in economic and social development. The progressive principles of Syria's internal and foreign policy were reinforced by the decisions adopted at the recent Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

We express our confidence that the relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the USSR and Syria will be strengthened on the basis of the Syrian-Soviet agreement for the interests of both countries' peoples, for a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, and for both countries' contribution to struggle for peace and security in the world.

Accept our wishes for good health and success in your big and responsible efforts for the sake of friendly Syria's well-being and for the success of the struggle of the Syrian and other Arab people against Israel aggression and imperialist conspiracies.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SIDON REPORTED

PM181613 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 85 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Glukhov "Reportage from Lebanon": "Sidon Liberated"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, 17 Feb -- An exultant Sidon yesterday greeted the Lebanese Army, as it entered the city, with handfuls of rice and flowers as tokens of welcome. The residents came out into the streets. They had been waiting for this meeting for 2 years and 8 months.

The Israeli Army invaded Lebanon on 6 June 1982, flouting its sovereignty and independence and occupying the south of the country. The long night of occupation had continued since then.

Now the Israeli troops are leaving. But as yet it is only a redeployment to new positions and a withdrawal from densely populated and explosive regions.

General Ori Or, commander of an Israeli military grouping in southern Lebanon, stated that preemptive strikes will be carried out against the liberated regions, and a resumption of the occupation of Sidon, for instance, is not excluded. Thus the aggressor retains the "right" to perpetrate piracy and violence on other people's territory. He still counts on having his own way in someone else's house and sowing discord and strife, playing on the intercommunal and religious contradictions in Lebanese society.

Despite Tel Aviv's hysterics about an outbreak of "carnage," the Lebanese soldiers' entry into Sidon passed without incident. The city's inhabitants greeted them like liberators. The only threat which remains is the threat from Israel. That is why the Lebanese patriots have not laid down their arms; they are fully determined to struggle for their country's total liberation.

U.S. Media 'Mendacity' Claimed

LD172208 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- TASS commentator Vladimir Aleksandrov writes:

The forced pull-out of the Israeli occupation troops from the Lebanese city of Sidon has once again demonstrated the mendacity and total groundlessness of the claims once made by a number of mass media of the United States and some other Western countries about the role of the Israeli aggressors in southern Lebanon. After the brutal Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, some newspapers were trying to picture things as if the Israelis were on some "civilising" mission and were "ensuring law and order" in that Arab country, were publishing false reports that the local population was almost welcoming the Israeli occupation troops.

Facts, however, testify to the contrary. According to the Beirut press, since the start of the Israeli occupation to January this year the Lebanese guerrillas carried out against the aggressors and their menials from among the puppet "army of southern Lebanon" 422 combat operations in Zahrani and Sidon areas. The Israelis suffered losses in manpower and materiel almost daily. Neither brutal repressions, which often assumed the form of so-called "collective punishment", nor the "scorched earth" tactics, to which the punitive troops had recourse, by cutting down olive groves and destroying crops, could protect them from the strikes by the patriots. It is precisely under the pressure of the mounting attacks of the Lebanese resistance forces that Tel Aviv was compelled to take a decision on the withdrawal of its troops.

The hatred for foreign invaders was fully demonstrated by the Lebanese during the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon. The inhabitants of the city gave a jubilant welcome to the first units of the Lebanese Army entering the city. It was an impressive picture. And it would be only just if the American press gave a fair account of it to its readers.

PALESTINIAN NEWSMAN ON MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

PM151554 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Feb 85 First Edition p 5

[Palestinian journalist Rami Muhammad al-Sha'ir article under the rubric "Near East": "Time for Constructive Solutions"]

[Excerpts] Now, when the need for constructive solutions is more urgent than ever in the Near East, attempts are again being made to revive the bankrupt Camp David "peace" process and various versions of a separate U.S.-Israeli "peace." The aim is to foist them on each Arab country individually while ignoring the legitimate rights and national interests of the Palestinians and the Arab world as a whole.

How can the development of events in the Near East be channeled in the right direction, in keeping with the interests of world peace? The answer to this difficult question is provided by the Soviet Union's proposals for a Near East settlement of 29 July 1984.

This initiative was greeted with great interest and attention throughout the world. And it received widespread support among Arab countries.

Expressing the position of the Syrian leadership, Syrian Foreign Minister F. al-Shar' declared that the Syrian Arab Republic welcomes and supports these proposals and also the principles for a Near East settlement and the ways of achieving it which they contain. Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs T. al-Masri also approved the Soviet proposals. He noted that the Soviet initiative is conducive to efforts aimed at finding a joint and long-term peace settlement of the Near East conflict. The Lebanese leadership, including the Prime Minister R. Karami, came out in favor of the Soviet proposals. For Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO Executive Committee, noting the PLO's positive assessment of the Soviet proposals, declared that they are "an eloquent expression of the USSR's invariable support for the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine and of other Arab peoples."

The PLO leadership attaches exceptional importance to the fact that the Soviet proposals envisage the equal participation of the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in a Near East conference. According to the Soviet initiative, a just solution of the Palestinian problem is an integral element of a comprehensive settlement. The long-suffering Arab people of Palestine must be guaranteed their right to self-determination and to create their own independent state. In this respect the Soviet proposals are the complete antithesis of the various versions of a separate solution of the Palestinian problem, including the Camp David "autonomy," Reagan's "association" plan, the possible plan currently being drawn up by Egypt and a number of West European countries, and the so-called "Jordanian option" put forward by the present Israeli Government. Certain Arab regimes also favor this option. It must be emphasized that in order to advance their anti-Palestinian schemes, the enemies of the Arabs are trying in every way to exploit the existing differences and contradictions within the PLO. They try to belittle the international prestige and attractiveness of the PLO among Arab peoples and to thwart the holding of various forums and conferences aimed at demonstrating solidarity with the Arab people of Palestine and strengthening Arab unity. On the whole this U.S. strategy is aimed at dealing a blow to the political and revolutionary vanguard of the Palestinian people and the Arab national liberation movement as a whole.

The United States and some of its NATO allies, feigning "love of peace" and "peacemaking", are deliberately initiating arguments about what the process of talks on the Near East should be like: step-by-step, direct, or via mediation. Through their agents in the Arab world they are pushing the idea of talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors, followed by the convening of some kind of "international conference" as an alternative to the conference mentioned in the Soviet proposals. According to Washington's plan, this conference would just rubber-stamp decisions that Washington had approved earlier.

And -- the most important point -- all these "ideas" do not take the current situation in the Near East into consideration. They find no room for the PLO -- the sole legitimate representative of our struggling people. However, without a solution of the Palestinian problem, which is pivotal to a Near East settlement, a normalization of the situation in the region is impossible.

U.S. Policy 'Failures' Hit

LD1700Sb Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video talk by political observer Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] Hello, comrades! After a lengthy pause brought about by the resounding failures of U.S. policy in the Near East, this region has once again found itself the focus of the Washington administration's attention.

Talks ended in Washington a day or two ago between President Reagan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. A forthcoming visit to the United States by President Mubarak of Egypt has been announced. In his latest statements, Reagan spoke of the United States' intention to seek the conclusion of peace in the Near East between the Arab states and Israel. The question is, what sort of peace? And at what price?

For the Arab countries, no matter what relations they may maintain with Washington, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and a just solution to the Palestinian problem are a matter of principle, a question of national honor and national interests. After the bloody events in Lebanon and after the Palestinians' tragedy in Sabra and Shatila, Washington is hard put to find a second Sadat among the Arabs, one who would risk sacrificing pan-Arab interests, to please imperialism and Zionism.

In spite of this, however, the Reagan administration is continuing its bankrupt course in the Near East. It is not only expanding its strategic cooperation with Israel primarily in the military sphere, it is also aspiring to consolidate the results of Israeli aggression by putting forceful pressure on Arab countries and imposing shackling separate deals upon them. During his meeting with King Fahd, Reagan once again fought for direct talks between the Arabs and Tel Aviv -- and that, in the circumstances of the continuing occupation of Arab lands. Washington plans to involve in these negotiations not only Egypt but also Jordan and those Palestinians who inspire confidence -- as the U.S. Administration puts it. The State Department has even published a special explanation. It is clear from this that the Palestinians intended here are those who suit Israel. The Reagan administration refuses to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and refuses also to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to national independence and the establishment of their own state.

The Israeli hawks and their American intermediaries have become accustomed to conducting negotiations with the Arabs pistol in hand. This, for instance, was the case in the recent Israeli-Lebanese military negotiations. Lebanon demanded that a calendar be put forward for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and full reestablishment of its sovereignty. Tel Aviv crudely broke off these negotiations and now, under the guise of withdrawing its troops from those regions of southern Lebanon where they are incurring no small losses under the blows of the Lebanese patriots, it is trying to maintain full control over a border strip 45 km deep.

The occupation of a part of Lebanese territory, colonization of the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip, annexation of the Golan Heights: Such is the course of the Israeli aggressors which is being wholly supported by Washington. Direct negotiations, which the Reagan administration is advocating, are an attempt to impose capitulation upon the Arab countries under the guise of a peaceful Near East settlement.

There is another way, that proposed by the Soviet Union and supported by all Arab states: the convocation of an international conference on the Near East, with all interested parties taking part. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko described this as the main way to an all-encompassing and just settlement in the Near East.

REAGAN TRIES TO JUSTIFY ANTI-NICARAGUAN POLICY

PM181513 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Preaching Piracy: The U.S. President's American Radio Broadcast"]

[Text] Washington February 17 TASS -- President Reagan's latest broadcast address to the Americans was marked by lecturing on piracy and terrorism, institutionalized as official policy by the United States, and on Washington's "right" to grossly interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and to dictate to them. His speech was pervaded with hatred for communisn and the forces of progress and followed the worst traditions of anticommunism of the cold war vintage.

The President needed those reactionary statements to substantiate the demand that the U.S. Congress rubberstamp the administration's request for the further expansion of financial aid to the terrorists who, supervised by the CIA, are trying to overthrow the Sandinist government in Nicaragua. Justifying support for those bandits, Reagan tried to besmirch in every way the Sandinist revolution which, despite the constant threat of U.S. intervention has done a good deal to eradicate poverty, lawlessness, illiteracy, economic stagnation, and other grim consequences of the rule of the overthrown pro-American Somoza dictatorship. Trying to scare the Americans, the President claims that Nicaragua sought to export communism beyond its borders.

In this way he, hoping to mislead the unaware, again tried to manipulate the old lie that the national liberation movements that have now engulfed a large number of Central American countries are caused not by the desire of the peoples for freedom and independence but by "outside intervention."

Ignoring commonly known facts, the President tried to give a semblance of legitimacy to the unlawful "secret war" unleashed by the CIA against Nicaragua by calling the gangs of Somozists, thugs, and killers sent by Washington into that country "our brothers" and freedom fighters." "When all is said and done, their struggle is our struggle," Reagan stated, demanding from Congress approval for the administration's plans to expand acts of subversion against the Sandinist government.

The attempts by the head of the Washington administration to turn the facts upside down and distract attention from the international piracy perpetrated by the United States will not mislead anyone. The U.S.-organized "creeping aggression" against Nicaragua and the war against national liberation movements in other Central American countries and elsewhere in the world are being widely discussed throughout the world. The U.S. policy of gunboats and armed aggression with respect to Lebanon and Grenada was censured by the vast majority of states at the recent UN General Assembly session. This aggressive course is also encountering growing resistance in the United States itself.

As Congressman M. Barnes noted, Reagan's new anti-Nicaraguan campaign will hardly bring the results its authors are counting on. He noted that the vast majority of Americans are resolutely opposed to the granting of aid to the anti-Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. "Congress has already expressed its opposition to such programs four times," he recalled.

Commentary on Reagan Remarks

LD180831 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 17 Feb 85

["The USA: Gambling on Force" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (TASS) -- TASS commentator Vladimir Shekhovtsov writes:

President Reagan has come out again with crude attacks against Nicaragua, trying to justify the policy of brigandage and terrorism pursued by the United States in relation to this Central American country. In his regular radio broadcast he described the Somozists as on the rampage, aggressors and murderers who daily commit bloody crimes against the civilian population of Nicaraguan "freedom fighters." To all intents and purposes justifying the bandit actions of the Somozists, Reagan stated: "In the final analysis their struggle is our struggle." The President demanded that Congress rubber-stamp the administration's request for a further increase in aid to the terrorists, who under CIA leadership are trying to overthrow the legal Nicaraguan Government elected by the people.

Sticking to its policy of state terrorism, the Reagan administration is doing everything possible to eliminate all political mechanisms for achieving peace and stability in Central America, to intensify further tension in the region and create the conditions for the organization of direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

An important Contadora Group meeting with the foreign ministers of the countries of Central America to discuss the Peace Act and cooperation in Central America worked out by Venezuela, Columbia, Mexico, and Panama was wrecked by the efforts of Washington. Under pressure from the White House, the puppet regimes of El Salvador and Honduras, as well as Costa Rica -- on whose territory groups of anti-Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries formed by the CIA operate -- refused to take part in this meeting. Typically, this decision was made after consultations with representatives of the U.S. Administration, following immediately from the statement by the Nicaraguan Government of its readiness to sign a document opening up the way toward peaceful settlement of the explosive situation in the region.

The wrecking of the Contadora Group initiative shows that the White House is putting its stake only on the use of military force in the resolution of disputed issues, on following a policy of crude interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Also evident is Washington's desire to estrange Nicaragua from the Contadora process in order to deal with it singly by means of organizing armed aggression. As part of this policy Washington unilaterally broke off the Nicaraguan-U.S. talks in the Mexican town of Manzanillo, which could have led to a normalization of bilateral intergovernmental relations. In violation of all juridicial norms the U.S. Administration announced a boycott of the International Court at The Hague, which has accused the United States of aggression against the Nicaraguan people and of mining the sea ports of that country.

Having blocked all paths to political settlement in Central America, the White House is striving to convince Congress that armed piracy is virtually the only means of safeguarding American interests in the region. At the same time the Pentagon has begun a major buildup of American military presence in Central America. At the moment the provocative "Big Pine-III" military maneuvers, in which thousands of American soldiers, officers, tanks, aircraft, and U.S. warships are taking part, continue there. The Pentagon does not conceal the fact that during these maneuvers the American military is familiarizing itself with "sites of possible combat actions," in this way threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua. These threats against Nicaragua came through unambiguously in Reagan's malevolent radio address as well.

Thus, having cast aside the instruments of political normalization, the White House is increasingly vigorously pushing the United States toward an dangerous military adventure in Central America.

PRAVDA CITES SPEECH BY NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA

PM181545 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading "Nicaragua Struggles and Creates"]

[Text] Managua, 17 Feb -- The Reagan administration is continuing to gamble on the destruction of the Sandinist people's revolution by armed aggression, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega stated. Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the working people and the private sector, he categorically rejected U.S. attempts to draw a parallel between the situations in Nicaragua and El Salvador and to impose on the Republic's Government "talks" with the ringleaders of the counterrevolutionary rabble.

The people of El Salvador, D. Ortega said, are waging a historic struggle against the reactionary military supported by the United States. On the other hand, the counter-revolutionary gangs that have invaded Nicaragua from the territory of neighboring countries are Washington's hirelings and are subject to CIA orders. Without American dollars and weapons the Somozists would have been destroyed in a matter of weeks. The Nicaraguan Government reaffirms its readiness to hold talks not with the mercenaries, but with their real masters -- the United States, the president stated.

D. Ortega pointed out that the Reagan administration's criminal designs envisage the return to power in Nicaragua of the top castle of Somoza's National Guard. The ringleaders of other counterrevolutionary organizations, he noted, are being used by the White House only as a screen in order to obtain the approval of the U.S. Congress for new appropriations of many millions of dollars for the war against the Nicaraguan people.

The Nicaraguan leader called on the country's population to continue their efforts to strengthen the republic's defense against the Somozists' subversive acts and the threat of direct invasion by American troops. At the same time, D. Ortega stated, the Nicaraguan Government continues to seek ways toward a peaceful settlement in Central America and resolutely supports the activity of the countries of the Contadora Group.

U.S. 'SPYING' WARSHIP TO HEAD FOR NICARAGUA

LD161441 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Washington February 16 TASS -- The "Sphinx" warship is being re-equipped expressely for electronic spying at the Puget-Sound naval shipyards in Washington State. Quoting the Pentagon's representatives, the UPI reports that it is being equipped with the latest radar systems and eavesdropping devices. The ship with a displacement of 2.5 thousand tons will be armed with eight 40mm cannons and will have on its deck a landing strip where small helicopters can land.

After the ceremony of the ship's being adopted for service to be held on March 30 at the U.S. Air Force base in Norfolk, Virginia, the "Sphinx" with its crew of nearly 200 will be sent to the coasts of Nicaragua. UPI reports that U.S. destroyers and frigates having equipment for collecting intelligence information have been constantly sailing in international waters near the Gulf of Fonseca since January 1981. They conduct observations of the movement of Nicaraguan ships and intercept radio reports.

TRUE NATURE OF U.S. AID TO EL SALVADOR VIEWED

OW151253 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[From the "Novosti" newscast; commentary by Boris Parkhomenko]

[Text] The United States continues to increase military assistance to the antipeople regime in El Salvador. Here is our commentary:

[Parkhomenko] Hello, comrades. A group of U.S. congressmen has published a special report accusing the U.S. Government of submitting unreliable, erroneous, and in some cases patently false information to Congress on the amount and nature of financial assistance to El Salvador.

According to the document, the greater part of the $1.7 billion allocated to El Salvador for reforms and development over a 5-year period is being used, with Washington's knowledge and approval, to expand the struggle against Salvadoran rebels. Specific figures are cited. Thus, nearly $800 million goes toward maintaining the Government Army and more than $500 million toward organizing punitive operations, armaments, and the special training of commando detachments.

Why does the Washington administration need to deceive Congress? After all, the practice of direct U.S. military assistance to all kinds of counterrevolutionaries in all parts of the world has become a fact that Washington does not even conceal. The answer is simple: It is becoming increasingly difficult for the Reagan administration to reconcile the pretentious words of America's historic mission to defend democracy with facts of flagrant interference in the internal affairs of other countries and with complicity in acts of terror and violence unleashed by dictatorial regimes against their own people.

The fact that every new financial injection into El Salvador is followed by a new outbreak of bloodshed, new cruel acts by the death squads, and the deaths of hundreds of people has become an open secret. That is why politicians in Washington, disguised in the robes of peacemakers and as zealots of social reform and democratic development, are forced to resort to open deception of their country's highest legislative body.

BELIZE FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS MILITARY BASES

LD162211 Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City February 16 TASS -- Foreign Minister of Belize Dean Barrow proclaimed the intention of his country to conduct an independent policy on the international arena. Belize will not become another puppet of Washington in the region, he stressed. This is shown by the government's stand on the question of the setting up of U.S. military bases on the country's territory. Belize is not going to allow their construction, Dean Barrow said.

The minister came out in support of the efforts of the member countries of the Contadora Group aimed at the quest of the ways of a just peaceful settlement of the crisis in Central America. Dean Barrow pointed to the need of a strict observance of the norms of interstate relations set by international law. No-one has a right to unleash aggression against Nicaragua to overthrow its government, he stressed in this connection.

SPECULATION ON CHERNENKO'S HEALTH CONTINUES

AU171549 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 17 (AFP) -- TASS announced today that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko will visit Italy and Spain at the end of the month, which diplomatic sources here said amounted to an implicit denial of Western speculation that President Konstantin Chernenko was close to death. TASS gave no details of Mr. Gromyko's plans, but the sources said he should arrive in Italy on February 25, and he will then pay a 48-hour visit to Spain.

They added that, it would be inconceivable for a Soviet politician of Mr. Gromyko's importance to leave on a foreign trip if the 73-year-old president was as gravely ill as suggested in the West in recent weeks.

Mr. Chernenko, who suffers from emphysema, a lung complaint, has not been seen in public in 52 days and was unable to meet Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou here last week.

Soviet officials, in a departure from normal practice, have acknowledged that Mr. Chernenko is ill. The latest indication of this came yesterday, when PRAVDA published the television programmes for the coming week. Mr. Chernenko would normally have been expected to make a televised speech on Friday on the eve of Soviet local elections, but there was no mention of this in the programme schedules.

The omission suggests that the Kremlin is unable to confirm, a week in advance, that Mr. Chernenko will be able to fulfill his basic presidential duties. Despite this, Mr. Gromyko's imminent departure appears to quash rumours that a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee will be held soon to deal with the possible resignation of Mr. Chernenko.

TANJUG: MOSCOW TV FILM SHOWS KHRUSHCHEV FOOTAGE

LD171732 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1622 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (TANJUG) -- Moscow television viewers had an opportunity this afternoon to see on their screens Nikita Khrushchev, former first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who was relieved of this post in October 1964. If one ignores some accompanying documentary films containing a few sequences in which he could be seen, this is, exactly 20 years later, the first return of Khrushchev to the television screens in his highest political function.

He was shown this time in a film devoted to the life and work of the Indian leader Nehru, whom Khrushchev, in his role as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met on several occasions. Marshal Bulganin, who was at that time chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was shown together with Khrushchev. It is interesting that this same film was shown on Moscow TV some 20 days ago but at that time the sequences showing Nehru's meeting with Khrushchev were missing.

Foreign observers in Moscow and also unofficial quarters here in Moscow do not link this return of the replaced Soviet leader to the television screen with a possibility of a change in the official treatment of Khrushchev and his work in modern Soviet history. According to first assessments, this is merely an attempt by the author of the film not to avoid historic authenticity, that is to say the events in which Khrushchev was one of the main political actors.

Nevertheless, this is Khrushchev's first TV appearance since quite a few years ago. Khrushchev's name has been avoided in published political work so far. In October 1970, Soviet TV showed a series of documentary films about the development of the USSR from 1955 to 1959, a period marked by Khrushchev's work and personality. Each one of these films was devoted to 1 year and lasted for 90 minutes. However, none of these films referred to the development of the Soviet Union after Stalin's death. Khrushchev's name was not mentioned and his photograph was not put on the screen in any of them.

CANDIDATE SOLOMENTSEV ADDRESSES MIASS VOTERS

PM181418 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report on 15 February Miass meeting between M.S. Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee, and voters of Miasskiy Electoral Okrug: "To Strengthen Discipline and Enhance the Creative Activeness of the Masses"]

[Text] "Forward into the future!" -- this slogan of the shockworkers during the first 5-year plans is echoing with renewed vigor in the shops of the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant and the Magnitka in the year of the Stakhanovite movement's 50th anniversary, when nationwide competition is spreading widely in the country to fittingly welcome the 27th CPSU Congress. People in the south Urals are approaching the day of RSFSR Supreme Soviet elections with remarkable successes. Industrial output worth over R350 million has been sold in excess of plan since the start of the 5-year plan, and the target for labor productivity growth has been overfulfilled.

Motor vehicle builders in Miass are now living through a crucial period. They are fulfilling an important element of the country's food program -- assimilating and expanding the production of powerful all-terrain trucks for agricultural purposes. At the same time, the construction of new shops is in progress at the plant.

This was note 15 February at a Miass meeting of voters with Mikhail Sergeyevich Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee. He is registered as RSFSR Supreme Soviet candidate deputy from Miasskiy Electoral Okrug.

The meeting was opened by A.P. Borisov, first secretary of the Miass CPSU Gorkom.

Those assembled elected with great enthusiasm an honorary presidium consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko.

The candidate deputy's agent, N.A. Novoselova, milling machine operator at the Uralsk Motor Vehicle Plant, spoke of M.S. Solomentsev's life and career. She urged the voters to unanimously cast their votes on election day for the candidates of the unbreakable bloc of Communists and nonparty people.

The meeting was addressed on behalf of the Miass trade union aktiv by Yu.Zh. Zhirikov, leader of a team of bricklayers and assembly workers at the "Uralavtostroy" Trust; A.I. Zamotokhin, winner of the USSR Council of Ministers prize; Natalya Kurdyukova, Lenin scholarship student at the Geological Prospecting Technical College; V.A. Buss, director of the "Elektroapparat" Plant; and V.P. Korbova, worker at the file plant. They emphasized that working people in Miass sense tangibly the daily concern of the party and the Soviet state to enhance prosperity and improve labor and living conditions. During the last few years alone the city has acquired a hospital complex, a railroad station, a department store and five youth hostels, and thousands of citizens have received new accommodation in well equipped apartments.

The speakers told how people in the south Urals are persistently struggling to affirm law and order and organization everywhere, to strengthen party, state, and labor discipline, and to enhance the responsibility of everyone and of each individual.

M.S. Solomentsev, who was warmly greeted by those assembled, delivered a speech. I perceive the lofty trust shown in me, he said, as an expression of indivisible support and total approval for the Leninist domestic and foreign policy course of the Communist Party and the multifaceted activity of its Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by K.U. Chernenko, outstanding party and state figure, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Elections to the soviets are a major political event in the Soviet people's life. Soviet power, as the true power of the people, has deep historical and revolutionary roots. The profound creativity itself of the people, as V.I. Lenin put it, which went through the experience of 1905 and became wiser because of it -- this is the actual creator of this form of proletarian power. Lenin's words sound exceptionally topical these days when the Soviet people are preparing to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the first Russian revolution.

The unanimous nomination of Comrade K.U. Chernenko as the first candidate deputy was a vivid demonstration of the monolithic unity of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people. He devotes his tremendous political experience and all his strength and knowledge to strengthening our motherland's economic and defense might and enhancing the Soviet people's well-being and to the struggle for peace throughout the world. His works and speeches are of exceptionally great significance for enriching Marxist-Leninist theory and the practice of socialist building.

With great satisfaction I convey to all working people of the city of Miass and Chelyabinsk Oblast, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's cordial greetings and good wishes for health, happiness, and successes in work. He expressed firm confidence that the labor collectives of the south Urals will make a worthy contribution to the struggle for the successful fulfillment of the targets for this year and the 5-year plan as a whole.

The preparations for the next, 27th CPSU Congress are of determining significance for the present election campaign, the candidate deputy continues. The congress will sum up the results of one more 5-year period in the creative activity of the party and the people. As is known, the congress will examine the new edition of the CPSU program and changes and additions to the party rules and approve the basic guidelines for the economic and social development of the USSR for the 12th 5-Year Plan and the period through the year 2000. The in-depth elaboration of these very important party documents is now being carried out.

The active preparations for the party congress, the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, and the 50th anniversary of the Stakhanovite movement give a special slant to the election campaign, create an atmosphere of universal enthusiasm, and arouse a sense of pride in the heroic path traveled by the country. The persistent and consistent realization of the party's course elaborated by the 26th CPSU Congress and by subsequent party Central Committee plenums and the Soviet people's firm mood for action are yielding positive results. Our motherland has become stronger and more beautiful, and life more secure and rich in content.

The Soviet economy and, above all, the sectors which determine scientific and technical progress, and developing more dynamically. The efficiency of the national economy has increased. Stricter observance of the policy of thrift has ensured a saving of material resources worth almost R16 billion over the 5-year period.

I would specially like to point to the work results last year, notably the improvement in the qualitative indicators of management. Working people in industry and other sectors worked well. Railroad transport ensured freight shipments. Fixed capital worth R4 billion more than in 1983 was commissioned.

Workers of the agro-industrial complex worked hard to realize the targets of the food program. Despite the complex weather conditions, last year agricultural products worth more than R7 billion more than the average for the previous 3 years were obtained. The plan for purchases of livestock products was overfulfilled.

The social thrust of our plans is being intensified purposefully and consistently. The national income used for consumption and accumulation increased by R364 billion during the 5-year period compared with the previous period. Four-fifths of its volume was directed toward enhancing the people's well-being. Last year the entire increase in national income was used for these purposes.

Housing and cultural and consumer construction has continued on a large scale. Over the 5-year period almost 10 million apartments, which have rehoused 50 million people, have been built. Not one of the richest capitalist countries could dream of such a scale of state-funded construction.

A notable contribution to the development of the economy is being made by the working people of Chelyabinsk Oblast. The entire growth in industrial output was obtained through labor productivity increases, and the rate of labor productivity growth over the past few years has outstripped wage increases. The oblast's labor collectives have worked persistently in improving the technical standard of production.

Great success has been achieved by Chelyabinsk tractor builders. Last year they produced their millionth tractor. The party Central Committee stressed in its greetings to the collective in connection with this labor victory that it is necessary to increase production of these modern machines and improve their quality. Doing this means accelerating the implementation of the long-term land reclamation program ratified by the CPSU Central Committee October (1984) Plenum.

M.S. Solomentsev went on to describe in detail the oblast's achievements in agriculture, housing and sociocultural construction, and the supply of goods and services to the population. He warmly congratulated the working people of Chelyabinsk on their victory in the all-union socialist competition to successfully fulfill the 1984 plan and on the award to the city of the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee.

Favorable changes, the speaker stressed, have also been noted in the life of Miass. Since the start of the 5-year plan a considerable amount of fixed capital has been renewed and commissioned here and production capacities for manufacturing 4,000 trucks a year have been commissioned. The city and its amenities are growing and trolleybus services have opened. In the first 4 years of the 5-year plan, over 16,000 people have been housed in new apartments and the number of telephones available to the population has increased by 50 percent. The city was awarded the Labor Red Banner in 1982 for successes in economic and cultural development. This high and merited award obliges all Miass' working people to make a still greater contribution to the economic and defense might of our fatherland.

The final year of the 11th 5-Year Plan is under way. The overall result of the present 5-year plan and the successful start of the new one depend on how successfully this year's targets are fulfilled.

The economic and political task of the current period was defined by Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech at the 15 November 1984 CPSU Central Committee Politburo session: We must not only reinforce but augment the positive shifts in the economy, the plan must be fulfilled unconditionally, and where possible and necessary, overfulfilled. This clear party directive can only be implemented on the basis of intensifying the economy in every possible way and increasing the efficient use of all resources.

We do have possibilities -- considerable ones -- for further improving work, the speaker said. Take, for instance, the enterprises of Chelyabinsk Oblast. In carrying out the plan for output sales, they have not coped for a number of years with contractual commitments for deliveries. Matters are no better, unfortunately, in Miass, where last year a number of enterprises failed to fulfill plan targets. The tasks of party, soviet and economic organs, trade unions, and the Komsomol lie in ensuring all the conditions for overcoming lags in the shortest possible time wherever they have been allowed to occur.

On the initiative of front-ranking collectives, nationwide competition has been launched in the country under the slogan: Create above-plan savings funds and perform work for at least 2 days using the materials, raw materials, and fuel saved. It is necessary everywhere to gear the masses' creative activeness and the mounting enthusiasm for the competition to ensure the fulfillment of adopted pledges and the successful completion of the targets for this year and for the 5-year plan as a whole.

The Soviet people's selfless labor is now creating the preconditions for profound qualitative shifts in our economy. The forthcoming 12th 5-Year Plan must be a 5-year plan of a radical turnaround in increasing economic efficiency and carrying out the intensification of the national economy. The most important condition for this is to extensively introduce the latest achievements of science and technology into production. Only scientific and technical progress can endure the qualitative renovation of the country's production forces, and thus also the resolution of a task of programmatic importance: reaching the highest world levels in social labor productivity.

Scientific and technical progress is determined first and foremost by fundamental discoveries, major inventions, and radical innovations. Its acceleration depends to no less an extent on sensible proposals from rationalizers, the qualitative embodiment of modern planning, the elimination of stoppages, and work with no substandard output. That is why the party says that scientific and technical progesss ia a matter for each and everyone.

The components of intensification -- scientific and technical progesss, savings, quality, and discipline -- are indissolubly linked.

They are united by the geniune interests of everyone -- from worker to minister -- in using the new technology and renewing production. The party attaches particular importance to developing precisely the management mechanism which would ensure the most rational running of our economy. This great and multifaceted work is a matter for particular attention from the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo. As is well known, the team contract is being actively disseminated in national economic sectors, a large-scale economic experiment is under way, and the running of the agro-industrial complex and construction is being improved.

People who work conscientiously and with interest constitute an inexhaustible reserve for the country's economic development which must now be accelerated. Personal contributions to production -- even the most modest ones -- personal creative plans, and personal savings records are the basis on which social wealth ultimately grows. The absolute majority of Soviet people realize this and work conscientiously, creatively, and with spirit.

Noting the high results of the labor of Miass' production frontrankers, the candidate deputy pointed out that their achievements, active life stance, and better ideological and moral qualities serve as a guideline for all working people.

Yet, it is necessary to say quite bluntly that production and society still suffer considerable losses from uncreative and unenterprising work. This is that same mismanagement and extravagance again. We must not be condescending to slackers, absentees, and shoddy workers. It is in our common interest to create an atmosphere of intolerance toward these phenomena. Drunkenness and alcoholism are particularly intolerable in our life. It is hard to enumerate all the ruinous consequences of alcohol abuse for society, people's health, and future generations. This is why party and government decisions have defined a number of measures to combat drunkenness. The time has now come, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko emphasized, to turn to more persistent and considered actions aimed at ridding society of this great evil. Such actions will undoubtedly meet with the Soviet people's very broad support.

Going on to speak about the social creativity of the masses, the candidate deputy emphasized the great significance of the team form of labor organization and incentive. Working people themselves proposed it as an effective method of combining the interests of the individual and the labor collective. But it is not only a matter of the number of teams. The chief thing is to improve the substance of their work, accelerate labor productivity growth, intensify the struggle against losses of work time, and improve people's labor education.

The increased activeness of working people in resolving social matters, in formulating and adopting laws, and in the work of public and state organizations -- of the soviets, above all -- has become a reality of our life.

The CPSU Central Committee April (1984) Plenum played a paramount role in enhancing the soviets' effectiveness. The party sees to it that the soviets act in an enterprising way, better coordinate within the limits of their rights the work of enterprises and organizations located on their territory, and more actively tackle the resolution of questions of economic and sociocultural building.

During the present election campaign the soviets are reporting back to the working people how their mandates have been fulfilled and how what was promised is becoming fact. The accountability of our organs of power to the people and the voters' real influence on the improvement of affairs in the state constitute a very great advantage of genuine, socialist democracy over the formal democracy of the bourgeois society.

The activation of the work of all components of the country's political system is organically connected with the increase in the Communist Party's leading role and the further strengthening of its ties with the people. The strengthening of party leadership of the affairs of society is a key factor in the deepening and development of socialist democracy.

The party sets an example to all other public organizations, above all, through the exemplary organization of its own work. Therefore, the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo constantly devote close attention to questions of party building and the organizational and political strengthening of all the party's components. A realistic and, at the same time, creative approach to work and the Leninist style of leadership are increasingly being asserted in the activities of party organs and organizations. The party persistently improves work with cadres and strives for their replenishment with the best representatives of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the intelligentsia, women, and young people. An important role is allocated to monitoring the work of cadres, for its weakening leads to inevitable mistakes, shortcomings, and sometimes even abuses.

The entire experience of the development of socialism confirms the truth of Lenin's theses that monitoring and verification of execution are a decisive condition for the successful fulfillment of party directives and the efficient functioning of state and public organizations.

Our system's very profound democratism is graphically manifested in the participation of millions of people in the business of monitoring: through soviet commissions, people's control organs, and various public organizations. Primary party organizations and all labor collectives are endowed with real rights of control. This has become an inalienable part of the creative force of the people's socialist self-management.

It is a very important task of control -- party, state, and public control -- to expose and eliminate everything that runs counter to the nature of socialism and is at odds with its principles.

The correct organization of highly productive labor and of its fair remuneration demands the special attention of control organs. Under the conditions of socialism both leveling and various forms of parasitism and the creation of prosperity at the expense of society are intolerable. The candidate deputy went on to point out that our party's line of strengthening discipline and law and order is consistent and unshakable. It is unanimously approved and actively supported by the entire Soviet people.

The CPSU Central Committee, M.S. Solomentsev stressed, pays great attention to the work of the party control bodies and supports them in the struggle for the purity of party ranks. Recently, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, having approved the work of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee last year, stressed the need for the further strengthening of party and state discipline and the strict observance by Communists of the Leninist norms of party life. Workers of party control bodies, both centrally and locally, will exert every effort to justify by their activity the high trust of the CPSU Central Committee.

In the resolution of economic and social problems and in the communist education of working people, it is important to make full use of the active and transforming force of our ideology. The party is orienting its cadres, party organizations, and the whole system of ideological and educational work toward this today. Here, it is important to reach all the people, explain to them the essence of the new tasks, and show convincingly that the resolution of these tasks meets their basic, vital interests.

Touching on questions of implementing reforms of the general educational and vocational school, M.S. Solomentsev noted that its main aim is to radically improve young people's preparation for life, labor, and defense of the motherland and to promote the education of comprehensively educated, cultural, and ideologically and morally resolute citizens of our society, ready to assume historic responsibility for the fate of the great country.

Going on to dwell on questions of implementing the Leninist foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet state, the speaker said that the complex international situation makes special demands on all Soviet people: to be vigilant and by shock labor to tirelessly strengthen the motherland's economic and defense might.

Cordially thanking the voters for the trust shown in him, M.S. Solomentsev noted in conclusion that the current election campaign is cogent evidence of the unanimous support by the Soviet people for the CPSU's Leninist domestic and foreign policy course and of Soviet people's desire for peace and creative labor for the sake of the triumph of the ideals of communism.

Visits Chelyabinsk Enterprises

PM190913 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Visit to Chelyabinsk Oblast"]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the Party Control Committee, nominated by the people of the southern Urals as candidate deputy of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, visited a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises, cultural establishments, and services facilities during his stay in Chelyabinsk Oblast. The candidate deputy visited the CHTZ [Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant named after V.I. Lenin]. In conversations with the tractor builders he inquired about the organization of socialist competition and the quality of the machines produced. There was a detailed discussion of progress in the modernization of the CHTZ and the problems of intensification of production on the basis of the latest achievements of science and technology. M.S. Solomentsev visited the enterprise's museum of labor and combat glory and talked with war and labor veterans.

At the Uralskiy Truck Plant he familiarized himself with progress in the construction of a block for the production of agricultural cross-country trucks, whose production is provided for in the country's food program, talked with the creators of the powerful Ural trucks, and informed himself of the state of labor discipline and the workers' working and living conditions. Comrade Solomentsev visited the Yetkul Sovkhoz; in conversations with its workers issues of increasing product output for a steady supply of provisions to the oblast's population were touched upon.

The candidate deputy inspected new development areas in Miass and Chelyabinsk; he drew attention to the necessity of improving the quality of construction and broadening the network of trade and public services enterprises. Comrade Solomentsev addressed a meeting of the party aktiv. Tasks of perfecting party control in the oblast party organization, measures to strengthen party and state discipline, and to increase the struggle against violations of communist morals were discussed. A talk was held with the members of the CPSU Obkom Bureau.

In his trip through the oblast with Mikhail Sergeyevich Solomentsev were Vedernikov, first secretary of the Chelyabinsk CPSU Obkom and Kurakin, oblispolkom chairman.

CANDIDATE ROMANOV ADDRESSES SMOLNINSKIY VOTERS

PM151203 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report on 14 February Leningrad meeting between G.V. Romanov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and voters of Smolninskiy Electoral Okrug: "Fully Armed With Experience, Toward New Successes"]

[Text] Soviet people are confidently implementing the general course of Lenin's party toward intensive development of the national economy, toward enhancing the working people's prosperity on this basis, and toward strengthening the motherland's economic base and defense might.

Participants in the 14 February meeting of the voters of Leningrad's Smolninskiy Electoral Okrug with the okrug's RSFSR Supreme Soviet candidate deputy Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke of the Leningraders' contribution to this creative work and their desire to utilize all resources more fully and more effectively and to mark the 27th CPSU Congress with great labor accomplishments.

The meeting was opened by D.N. Filippov, first secretary of the Smolninskiy CPSU Raykom.

An honorary presidium consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko was enthusiastically elected.

The candidate deputy's agent, V.V. Ilin, fitter and mechanic at the science and production association, described G.V. Romanov's life and work and urged the voters to unanimously cast their votes on election day for the candidates of the unbreakable bloc of Communists and nonparty people.

Addressing the meeting, Professor N.M. Markov, general director of the I.I. Polzunov Science and Production Association for Research and Design of Power Industry Equipment, N.T. Ivanova, assistant foreman at the S.M. Kirov Yarn Spinning Combine, A.I. Sergeyeva, chief doctor at the clinic of the State Institute for Improving [the Training of] Doctors, and Andrey Pavlov, student at No 31 Technical College, spoke of the fact that Leningraders, like all Soviet people, are approaching the elections monolithically united around the CPSU and unanimously approving and supporting the domestic and foreign policy of the party and the Soviet state and their course of creation and peace.

G.V. Romanov, who was warmly welcomed by those assembled, then addressed the meeting. All the speeches from this rostrum, he said, no matter which aspects of present-day reality they have touched on, have shared a common idea, a profoundly realized thought: pride in our people's accomplishments, complete and utter support for the CPSU's political course, and unanimous approval of the fruitful practical activity of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, outstanding leader of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

It can be confidently said that today we have heard the voice of all working Leningrad. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko sends to you, dear Leningraders, his cordial greetings and best wishes. He asked that his comradely, party exhortation [naputstviye] also be conveyed to you: Continue to resolve in a businesslike and creative fashion the tasks set by the party and bear aloft the banner of Lenin's city, the cradle of Great October and a city of revolutionary, combat, and labor glory!

We perceive the atmosphere of unanimity in which the election campaign meetings are being held not only as another manifestation of the unbreakable unity of party and people. We are clearly aware that our Leninist party has gained the boundless trust of the masses and vast influence in Soviet society and is consolidating them by its tireless struggle for the people's happiness and well-being and by the fact that it is steadfastly implementing a policy that accords with the people's fundamental interests.

After thanking the working people's collectives that again nominated him RSFSR Supreme candidate deputy from Leningrad's Smolninskiy Electoral Okrug, G.V. Romanov declared that he values this trust highly and attributes it fully to the Communist Party, which is confidently leading the country along Lenin's course, the course of peace and creation.

During the period since the previous republican supreme soviet elections, the Soviet people, armed with the decisions of the 26th party congress and the instructions of subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, have resolved complex economic and social tasks. Analyzing the fulfillment of these tasks, we can note with satisfaction that the country is approaching the election with an increased production, scientific, and technical potential.

At the start of 1985 the national economy's fixed production capital had reached R1.5 trillion. More than 1,000 modern enterprises have been commissioned. The scale of the opening up of new regions is expanding. The country's fuel and energy base has been substantially strengthened. The development of major territorial production complexes continues. It has been possible to reduce somewhat the materials-intensiveness of the social product and improve several other qualitative factors. Encouraging changes are occurring in the economy's agrarian sector. The state of affairs in transportation is being straightened out.

The heights of economic development that have been scaled have made it possible to ensure the further boosting of Soviet people's living standards. Since the start of the 5-year plan national income has increased 18 percent, and a considerable proportion of the increase is being channeled into consumption. The wages of workers, kolkhoz members, and employees have increased. Annual payments and benefits from social consumption funds have increased by over 26 percent.

All our reality convincingly shows that in the period between elections the Soviet state has made substantial headway in strengthening the material and technical base of developed socialism and improving social relations. This is a direct result of the fact that the general line elaborated by the party in the political, organizational, and economic spheres is not only being consistently and steadily implemented, but is also laying a reliable foundation for augmenting successes along the entire front of creation.

It must be emphasized that we have had and are having to resolve the large-scale tasks of domestic development in an exceptionally complex and dangerous international situation. Since the second half of the seventies, in other words for practically an entire decade, we have witnessed desperate attempts by imperialism to alter the prevailing military-strategic equilibrium to its own advantage and attain military superiority over socialism. All this, under the conditions of the arms race and of the hatching of sinister, aggressive plans, has whipped up international tension and brought mankind close to the brink of thermonuclear catastrophe. And it is only thanks to our great motherland, to our party, and to the socialist community countries that the worst, the irretrievable, has not happened.

The consistent and persistent implementation of the CPSU's considered line is yielding tangible results.

The main result is that the violent [silovaya] attack on the socialist community has been halted. Under these conditions the United States has been faced with the need to adapt to the situation resulting from events in the last few years and to accept the Soviet Union's proposal to conduct new talks on the entire complex of questions concerning nuclear and space weapons.

The Soviet Union is prepared for the most radical decisions on these problems. Nevertheless, the fruitfulness of the forthcoming talks depends entirely on how responsibly and constructively the United States approaches them.

Only a few months separate us from the 40th anniversary of the victorious conclusion of the Soviet people's Great Patriotic War against Hitlerite fascism. The outcome of the battle against the shock force of imperialism at that time is a grim warning to today's aspirants to world domination. This outcome convincingly shows that the people who crushed the aggressor's hordes near Moscow, the people who defended to the death the ramparts of Stalingrad, the people who survived the blockade of Leningrad, the people who achieved victory in the cruelest and bloodiest of wars, will not allow any superiority whatever over them and their fatherland.

Responding to the instructions [nakaz] issued today to the leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, I would like to emphasize, comrades, that, while desiring peace and acting consistently for the sake of peace, the party Central Committee and the Soviet Government will continue to show tireless concern for strengthening our country's defense capability. Soviet people can be firmly certain: Any attempts by imperialism to resolve the dispute with socialism to its own advantage by means of military force are doomed to failure.

Leningraders are making a weighty contribution to the solution of the large-scale constructive tasks, G.V. Romanov went on to say. Working people in the city and the oblast fulfilled ahead of schedule the targets of the 5-year plan's first 4 years for the growth of industrial production and labor productivity. The manufacture of about 1,000 types of output has been assimilated during their period. Unit capacities have increased, materials-intensiveness has fallen, and the operational performance of various types of equipment has improved, and all this has had a direct influence on increasing social labor productivity.

New heights have been scaled in the development of agriculture, capital construction, and transportation. The solution of many social tasks has been speeded up.

Leningraders' achievements in the all-union socialist competition and their successes in various sectors of the economy, science, and culture have been recognized by the award -- for results in the 4th year of the 5-year plan -- of Challenge Red Banners of the party Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee to Leningrad and the oblast, several cities and rayons, including Smolninskiy Rayon, and many enterprises and associations.

Evaluating the achievements realistically and without any illusions, without either exaggerating or belittling them, the party Central Committee is focusing the attention of Communists and all working people on the key directions of Soviet society's development -- whether they relate to everyday reality or to long-term goals. One of the tasks which the CPSU considers to be of paramount importance is the intensification of the economy on the basis of the considerable acceleration of scientific and technical progress.

Today, having reached a qualitatively new level of cadre education and labor training, the Soviet Union possesses a vast intellectual potential. The detachment of skilled workers, specialists, and scientists has increased many times over. One of the most substantial gains is that real socialism is now developing while relying on its own scientific, technical, and production base.

At the same time, when assessing work in the science and technology field, the party far from closes its eyes to certain unresolved problems. It warns against jumping the gun and confusing what has already been achieved with what can, must, and is to be done. This approach fully corresponds to the CPSU proposition on the planned and comprehensive improvement of developed socialism as a strategic task of the party. Recent CPSU Central Committee documents, the works of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, and his work "Up to the Level of the Demands of Developed Socialism" published in KOMMUNIST, arm Soviet people with a clear understanding of how new and highly difficult this process is.

Among other problems under examination, economic building, which, in Lenin's words, is the main policy for us, is spotlighted as a priority avenue. The inadmissibility of gearing the national economy to unattainable although attractive goals is stressed, as is the inadmissibility of undervaluing our economy's potential.

On the basis of objective preconditions the party sees it as an immediate task to achieving a radical breakthrough in increased national economic efficiency by the end of the 1980's. We are talking about resolutely gearing scientific and technical progress to ensure further economic growth not by building up the volume of production capacities and consumed resources, but on the basis of renewing them and using them efficiently and rationally.

Machine building plays a decisive role in mobilizing organizational efforts and material resources to rapidly retool the entire national economy. Machine building has been and remains the link which sets the pace and determines the scale of renovation of the country's fixed capital, the mechanization and automation of production, and the reductions in the proportion of manual labor. A great deal also remains to be done in the priority retooling of machine-building production itself.

The resolution of these tasks requires increased organizational, economic, and political efforts at every level of the economy -- from the shop, enterprise, and association to the apparatus of central ministries and departments, and from the rayon to the oblast, kray, and republic level.

The CPSU Central Committee supported the Leningrad party organization's initiative in developing a territorial-sectorial program of economic intensification which envisages accelerated production and labor productivity growth rates, a reduction in the material-intensiveness and prime cost of output, and a fundamental increase in product quality. A good start has been made, but this is only the start.

One of the main avenues is above all the development of fundamental scientific research and development capable of ensuring manifold increases in labor productivity, high quality output, and substantial savings in resources. On the other hand, the concentration in the city and the oblast of a considerable proportion of the all-union potential in such sectors as power machine building, the electrical equipment and machine tool industry, shipbuilding, and electronics dictates the need to substantially increase returns from them in order to rapidly equip the national economy with improved labor equipment, automatic device complexes, and other first-class equipment.

It is necessary to pool this potential, create a firm fusion of science and production, and launch active work to achieve a real and practical transfer of the economy onto the path of intensification. The rapid and effective utilization of the latest scientific and technical achievements are of great importance in a number of key problems. Practice has shown that the most favorable conditions for this are created in production and especially science-and-production associations. Leningrad industry is a sort of test site where certain fundamental principles of the formation and functioning of associations are worked out. Although instructive experience has been accumulated in this respect, it has to be admitted that certain associations have stopped growing qualitatively. This inertia must be overcome.

The strengthening of the plant sector of science deserves particular attention. Many Leningrad scientific research and project design organizations are not part of the associations and enteprises and fail to produce the requisite return; however, there are no concrete proposals for amalgamating them with production, and this situation must also be rectified. It is necessary to involve the relevant laboratories and faculties of academic insitutes and VUZes more actively in the resolution of specific production tasks.

The economic experiments being conducted at a number of enterprises to expand the rights of labor collectives and increase their responsibility for the end results of work and also to improve the labor remuneration of designers and technologists are having a positive influence on management methods. This procedure, which is still being worked out within the framework of individual enterprises, will embrace virtually all sectors of the national economy in the next 5-year plan. Preparations must be made for this. In particular, economic leaders and party and trade union committees must show greater initiative, overcome the leveling tendencies in labor remuneration and incentives, persistently implement the principles of carrying out more work with fewer people, and be concerned to increase the level of qualifications of captains of production, specialists, and workers.

Reaching qualitatively new heights of scientific and technical progrdss intensified the need to profoundly analyze the current state of affairs in all sectors of the economy and instill the proper order at every level. It is important to have a thorough knowledge of what every "cell" of a production organism can and actually does produce in practice and of how accurately and irreproachably the main task of any labor collective -- the observance of plan discipline -- is fulfilled.

G.V. Romanov criticized certain Leningrad enterprises which fail to meet contractual commitments, product low-quality output, use equipment irrationally, and fail to fulfill the targets for econonomizing on metal and raw and other materials. The new and many tried and tested forms of production and labor organization, including the team contract, job certification, the movement to increase the shift index and expand the number of machines each worker operates, and personal savings records have been and continue to be a great reserve for growth in production efficiency.

It is necessary to further strengthen discipline, organization, and order in every collective and resolutely eradicate instances of mismanagement, extravagance, exaggerations and distortions in reporting, and losses and damge to material assets. To erect firm and reliable barriers in the way of this is the common task of party organizations, local soviets, trade unions, the Komsomol, and our entire society.

Now that the country has launched active preparations for the 27th party congress, it is very important to weigh up profoundly and professionally everything new and valuable that has enriched the experience of party leadership of economic building.

At the same time, it is necessary to concentrate, including during the forthcoming report and election campaign in party organizations, on still unresolved problems, assess what has been done self-critically and in a principled way, seek improvements in work styles, forms, and methods, make every Communist and Soviet person aware of the magnitude of the tasks of improving developed socialism, and prompt the need to creatively resolve those tasks.

The candidate deputy dwelt on the work of soviets, the people's most representative organs, whose activity takes place with the broad and most active participation of the working people's masses. He stressed that the line of more clearly delineating the functions of soviets, trade unions, the Komsomol, and other social organizations must be more organically combined with ensuring their close collaboration in the implementation of tasks put forward by life itself. Soviets are called upon to continue to devote prime attention to implementing the mandate of the electorate and to the questions of satisfying people's growing needs, improving their working, living, and leisure conditions, raising the standard of services for the population, and eradicating bureaucratism, formalism, and parochial and departmental mind sets. The plenipotentiary powers of the soviets enshrined in the USSR Constitution must be constantly reflected in the content and style of their activity, the norm and rule of which has been and continues to be the Leninist principle of the unity of legislative, administrative, and monitoring work.

The objective needs of both our domestic and development and the international situation require that the role of ideological work and the political education of the masses be considerably enhanced and placed at the forefront of the tasks being resolved at the contemporary stage -- that was the conclusion of the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum. An important boost to the development and practical implementation of these provisions is provided by the works of Comrade K.U. Chernenko and his speeches and meetings with workers and specialists, people's control workers, and representatives of the creative intelligentsia, the Komsomol, and young people.

The party stresses that molding the awareness of Communists and all our society's citizens is a task not only for professional ideologists, propagandists, and workers in the mass media. The responsibility of all leading cadres for educating and systematically informing the masses is growing. Ideological and educational work means first and foremost the question of the party's links with the masses. And this has always been the main factor in the activity of our party, a party which has devoted itself to the service of the working class and the entire working people.

Enriched with immense experience of achievements on a truly historic scale, Communists and all Soviet people are preparing to greet the 27th CPSU Congress. Scope is opening up for every party and social organization and every labor collective to show creativity and initiative in resolving the complex economic and social tasks and the questions of the intensification of the national economy and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. The party demands this approach to matters. And this should be the approach in any sector of the common creative work for the sake of further strengthening our great motherland's might.

Visits Leningrad Enterprises

PM181315 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Stay in Leningrad"]

[Text] Comrade Romanov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is in Leningrad, met with the working people of Smolnyy constituency, where he is nominated as candidate deputy in the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

Comrade Romanov visited the Polzunov Scientific-Production Association for Research and Design of Power Industry Equipment, the Sverdlov Machine-Tool Building Association, and the Kirov Spinning and Thread Combine. A detailed review was made of the measures directed toward successfully implementing the Intensification-90 program which was approved by the CPSU Central Committee. The candidate deputy paid much attention to the working and living conditions for Leningraders. In conversations with workers, specialists, and party and economic leaders, stress was laid on the importance of strengthening the positive tendencies in the development of the economy, enhancing the efficiency and quality of all work, making fuller use of existing potential, and saving all types of resources. Special attention was focused on the need to raise the technical standard of design and engineering work and of series production and to step up the pace of the retooling of leading sectors of Leningrad's industry.

There was a meeting with members of the party obkom bureau, secretaries of the Leningrad CPSU Gorkom, and first secretaries of party gorkoms and raykoms in Leningrad and the oblast. There was a review of questions related to implementing the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee and the directives of Comrade Chernenko regarding the successful completion of the tasks of the year and the 5-year plan period as a whole, the plan for comprehensive economic and social development of Leningrad and the oblast, and the preparation of party organizations for the 27th CPSU Congress.

Comrade Romanov laid flowers at the sculpture-group monument in honor of the heroic defenders of Leningrad on Victory Square. Flowers were laid also at Lenin's monument in Moscow Square. Comrade G.V. Romanov was accompanied by L.V. Zaykov, first secretary of the Leningrad CPSU Obkom.

CANDIDATE DOLGIKH VISITS TYUMEN OBLAST 13-16 FEB

PM181631 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Visit to Tyumen Oblast"]

[Text] Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee has been in the Tyumen Oblast from 13 to 16 February.

During meetings with oil and gas workers, and with power generation men and builders of Novyy Urengoy, Noyabrsk, Surgut, and Tyumen, great attention was paid to the practical realization of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the government in further developing the West Siberian oil and gas complex and to the tasks of the party organizations in mobilizing Communists and all working people to successfully complete the 5-year plan and develop the competition to meet the 27th CPSU Congress in a worthy manner.

It was stressed that the instructions and conclusions contained in the speeches of K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, must form the basis of all work by party organizations and soviet, trade union, and economic organs.

Comrade Dolgikh took an interest in the problems of mastering new deposits, improving the use of the assets such as oil and gas wells, intensifying the rate of capital construction, and the prospects for the further build up of the raw materials base in Western Siberia. Questions of ensuring fulfillment of the 1985 plan, organizing work to intensify the policy of thrift and economy, strengthening labor and executive discipline, and improving working, everyday life, and leisure conditions were touched on.

Together with Comrade Dolgikh were Bogomyakov, first secretary of Tyumen Obkom, Nikitin, chairman of the oblispolkom, and the leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

RYZHKOV VISITS VLADIMIR OBLAST 15-16 FEB

PM181642 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Visit to Vladimir Oblast"]

[Text] N.I. Ryzhkov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited Vladimir Oblast 15-16 February. He met with the collective of the "Vladimirskiy Traktorniy Zavod imeni A.A. Zhdanova" Production Association and inquired about progress in modernizing the enterprise, introducing the achievements of scientific and technical progress, and reducing the metal-intensiveness of products, and questions of accelerating the production of the new "T-30m" tractor. The CPSU Central Committee secretary acquainted himself with the methodology of training the new generation of workers at Vladimir's No 7 Specialized Vocational and Technical College, which trains cadres for the plant. During meetings and talks with working people in industrial enterprises and agriculture, N.I. Ryzhkov touched on questions of the social development of collectives and improving working peoples' working, everyday life, and health conditions. He visited a permanent exhibition entitled "Economy, Thrift, and Quality."

A meeting of the party aktiv was held to discuss the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the Vladimir Party Organization's Work To Improve the System of Saving Material Resources as a Main Avenue in Rationally Conducting the Economy." The meeting mapped out ways of removing the shortcomings indicated in the resolution.

N.I. Ryzhkov was accompanied during his visit to the oblast by R.S. Bobovikov, first secretary of the Vladimir CPSU Obkom, and T.S. Sushkov, chairman of the oblispolkom.

KUZNETSOV PRESENTS AWARDS IN KREMLIN 15 FEB

PM181619 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "High Awards Presented"]

[Text] In the Kremlin today Comrade Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented USSR awards to a group of comrades.

The Order of Lenin and Hero of Socialist Labor Hammer and Sickle Gold Medal were presented to: USSR Minister [of the Gas Industry] Comrade Dinkov and USSR First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Comrade Korniyenko.

The Order of Lenin was presented to Comrade Aksenov, USSR ambassador to Poland; Comrade Prof. Borodulina, rector of the Moscow Moris Torez State Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages; Army General Gusakovskiy; Army General Obaturov; Comrade Sklyarov, chief editor of the PROBLEMY MIRA I SOTSIALIZMA journal; and Comrade Yakovlev, general designer of aircraft.

October Revolution orders were given to Comrade Bashindzhagyan, USSR first deputy minister of motor industry; Comrade Soshnikov, deputy chief of the department of administrative bodies at the CPSU Central Committee. Presentations were made also of the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, Order of Friendship Among Peoples, and Badges of Honor.

Diplomas of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidum awarding the honorary title People's Artiste of the USSR were received by soloists of the USSR Bolshoy Theater Pavlova and Gordeyev; Dzhigarkhanyan, artiste of the Mayakovskiy Academic Theater in Moscow; Kitayenko, artistic director and chief conductor of the Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Moscow State Philharmony; and Markov, artiste of the Mossovet State Academic Theater.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government, V.V. Kuznetsov warmly congratulated the award-winners and wished them new successes in their labor for the benefit of the socialist motherland and the triumph of communism and peace.

T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, also congratulated the award-winners.

The award-winners expressed profound gratitude to the Communist Party and the Soviet state for the high appreciation of their work. They gave assurances that they would spare no effort, knowledge, and experience in fulfilling the tasks set by the party for the Soviet people and in serving the motherland.

SHEVARDNADZE ATTENDS TBILISI MEETING ON CRIME

LD142245 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Questions related to further strengthening law and order and intensifying the fight against crime were discussed today in Tbilisi at a meeting of the republic's party aktiv. Comrade Shevardnadze, candidate member of CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, who presented a report, and those who spoke, noted that over the last few years in the republic there has been a strengthening of labor, production, and state discipline. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the overall number of breeches of law. Every party committee has an efficient working group responsible for strengthening discipline and socialist legality as well as a commission for fighting negative phenomena. They react to breeches of the law by tackling the problems as they arise, and study the causes and phenomena that condition them.

The participants in the meeting spoke of the necessity to fight more decisively against violations of socialist property, and to perfect preventive work regarding breeches of the law, waste, bribery, and speculation. This should become the concern of all members of society, of every labor collective, party organization, and local soviet.

Taking part in the meeting were Comrades Terebilov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, and Bogatyrev, deputy USSR minister of internal affairs.

GROMYKO TO CHAIR COMMISSION FOR YEAR OF PEACE

LD151654 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS -- The United Nations Organisation has declared 1985 as the Year of the United Nations Organisation and 1986 as the International Year of Peace. In this connection the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR formed a commission, chaired by member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko, to conduct the Year of the United Nations Organisation and the International Year of Peace in the USSR.

IZVESTIYA URGES IMPROVED COAL INDUSTRY OUTPUT

PM151443 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Extract Coal the Stakhanovite Way!"]

[Excerpts] There is no production facility in the national economy whose efficient working does not depend on how it is supplied with energy and fuel. This is why the significance of the steady, rhythmic working of the country's mining industry is so great. To produce more coal of better quality for less expenditure was and still is the chief task of mining collectives.

Yet, it has to be admitted that production reserves have been commissioned far from everywhere. In recent years the coal industry has been working under stress. Many mines and opencut pits are failing to cope with the plans and pledges for fuel extraction, labor productivity growth, and the lowering of prime production costs. Production capacities are being started up only slowly. All this entails interruptions in coal supplies to consumers, complicates the work of many industrial enterprises, and creates problems in the supply of heat to cities and settlements.

What, then, are the reasons for the unsatisfactory working of mines and opencut pits? There have, of course, been difficulties of an objective nature. They are connected with the undersupply of pit props and rolled metal, the uneven supply of empty cars, and the shortage of spare parts and certain types of equipment. At the same time, failures to fulfill pledges have frequently been a consequence of the fact that less attention has been paid to organizing the preparation of the front of the working face, there have been omissions in engineering backup for production and in labor organization, equipment is utilized badly, and the level of labor and production discipline is low. It has been calculated that coal losses last year amounted to more than 10 million metric tons at laggard mines because of untimely preparation of the front of the working face and lowering of the load on the comprehensively mechanized face.

Leaders of laggard associations and enterprises of the Coal Industry Ministry frequently complain that mining and geological conditions are deteriorating and that old and experienced miner cadres are being replaced by young, "raw" workers. Of course, these factors cannot fail to affect the results of labor. However, something else is also true. The equipment available to coal-extracting enterprises is invariably increasing. New, highly productive equipment is working today in extraction and tunneling. Almost all preparatory sections now have tunneling combines and loading machines, and matters proceed normally wherever they are used skillfully and veterans solicitously teach young people.

Three 5-year plans ago progressive teams and sections in the Ukraine and the Kuzbass began the struggle for the daily extraction of no less than 1,000 metric tons of coal from comprehensively mechanized faces. Today there are 600 highly productive breakage face teams in the sector.

It is necessary to strive in every possible way to increase the ranks of "1,000-tonners." However, the targets for the number of such teams are not fulfilled year after year. There is a noticeable tendency for the number of teams which annually extract 500,000 metric tons of coal or more to fall. There are fewer and fewer high-speed tunneling teams and also excavator and transport teams which have mastered the increased productivity normative. This attests that proper concern is not shown in the sector for the dissemination of progressive experience and that it is necessary to step up such work. It is necessary to improve the style of leadership of the sector and enhance the responsibility of every worker for the entrusted task.

It is very important now to give effective assistance to those who have fallen behind the planned targets. Every collective has potential for improving its work. It is a question of creating an atmosphere of creative questing everywhere, encouraging the active participation in it of those involved in competition, and monitoring the fulfillment of socialist pledges. Only on this condition is it possible to reckon that internal reserves will be quickly placed at the service of the 5-year plan.

Miners are the proven vanguard of the working class of the Land of the Soviets. There is no doubt that during the preparations for the 27th CPSU Congress, in the year of the 40th anniversary of victory, they will mark the 50th anniversary of the Stakhanovite movement with shock labor and will cope honorably with the tasks facing them.

COAL-UNLOADING PROBLEMS ON DONETSK RAILROAD NOTED

LD152352 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Feb 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by G. Kondaurov]

[Text] Owing to difficult weather conditions the rate of loading and unloading work has slowed down on the Donetsk railroad. This had led to interruptions in the transportation of important national economy freight.

[G. Kondaurov] Cables are coming in to the Donetsk Coal Supply and Marketing Directorate from many republics and oblasts requesting that the dispatch of fuel be speeded up. Such requests have become particularly frequent from areas where there have been sharp drops in temperature, but the miners cannot ship the coal despite the fact that they are meeting their planned targets. Approximately 3 million metric tons of coal ready for dispatch have now accumulated at the oblast's pits. There is a shortage of empty coal cars. What has caused this situation?

[Begin video recording] [V.V. Yarylovets, deputy chief of the Donetsk railroad] This situation has arisen because of the poor unloading of coal cars. In the last 24 hours, for instance, 2,000 cars, delivered in ample time, have failed to be unloaded and 1,300 cars are waiting for a place in release areas [v ozhidanii frontov osvobozhdeniya].

[Kondaurov] Which enterprises are breaching schedules for the unloading of cars?

[Yarylovets] There are several such enterprises on the Noetsk railroad. There is the Kommunar Metallurgical Works, the Yenakiyevo Metallurgical Works, the Yenakiyevo Coking By-Product Works, and particularly the Yasinovka Coking By-Product Works. [end recording]

[Kondaurov] As you can see, the cars are there. At the Yasinovka Coking By-Product Works alone 800 wagons are waiting to be unloaded. The unloading of coal arriving currently for processing at the coking by-product works and concentration factories of the Donbass from Karaganda, the Kuzbass and the Pechora basin is running into difficulties: On the way the coal has frozen solid in 40 degrees of frost. Eight to ten hours are required to heat up and unload every such car. Unfortunately, the enterprises holding up the unloading of cars did not prepare adequately for work in severe winter conditions. The loading mechanisms are frequently out of commission here. Additional garages for unfreezing the cars have failed to be built. The cold winter is the same for everyone, but where they were well prepared for it, even now cars are not being permitted to stand idle.

This applies above all to the collectives of the Donetsk Metallurgical Works and the Azovstal Combine in Zhdanov. But their experience is being disseminated poorly. The party obkom has now set up special headquarters at large junctions and freight-loading stations. Repair teams are on duty around the clocks in loading and unloading areas. Thousands of citizens have come out to help clear the tracks and train stations. We have now received reports that the number of cars made available for coal-loading has increased today.

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS HOLD SHIPS ICEBOUND

On Danube River

LD182135 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] An extremely serious situation has developed in the lower reaches of the Danube: Unusual frosts for these parts have frozen over the river, gripping about 30 Soviet and foreign ships in icy bondage over a distance of just 8 miles. A rise in temperature and the related thawing of the abundant snows upriver have led to powerful currents of water rushing into the Black Sea and passing over the surface of the ice, threatening the icebound ships and coastal facilities in the ports. The water level in the river has exceeded the critical level in Reni port and continues to rise in Izmail and Kiliya.

Taking into consideration the meteorologists' forecasts, the seamen had in advance formed a headquarters to combat the elements. The icebreaker Kapitan Kosolapov and several powerful tugs have been sent to the assistance of the Soviet Danube Shipping Line from the Black Sea Azov Basin. They are striving to free the ships from the icy captivity, splitting the ice and trying to send it out to sea, having freed the estuary for the water to escape.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the freeze on the coastal waters extended for 4 miles, partitioning off the route out of the river for the ice. The crews are working round the clock. As the Ministry of the Martitime Fleet has reported, the ship Kantemir has been dislodged and dispatched, escorted by the tug Poseydon, to the Sulinskiy Canal. Measures are being taken to free the other ships and get them out to sea.

In Baltic Sea

PM181506 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "The Baltic Resembles the Arctic"]

[Text] Riga, 15 Feb -- A complex weather situation has developed in the Baltic Sea.

Eight ships radioed simultaneously from the Irvenskiy Strait that they were icebound. The fairway is covered by huge icefields with hummocks up to 1.5 meters thick. The icebreaker Kapitan Voronin went to the ships' assistance, and guided them to a place of safety. Meanwhile, a new convoy is waiting for it at the mouth of the Daugava.

BRIEFS

OIL FIND ON KAMCHATKA -- Sakhalin prospectors have discovered a new oil deposit on the western shore of the Kamchatka peninsula. Prospecting work also continues in other areas to bring closer the day when the first gas field starts its production on the Kamchatka. [Summary] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1850 GMT 9 Feb 85 LD]